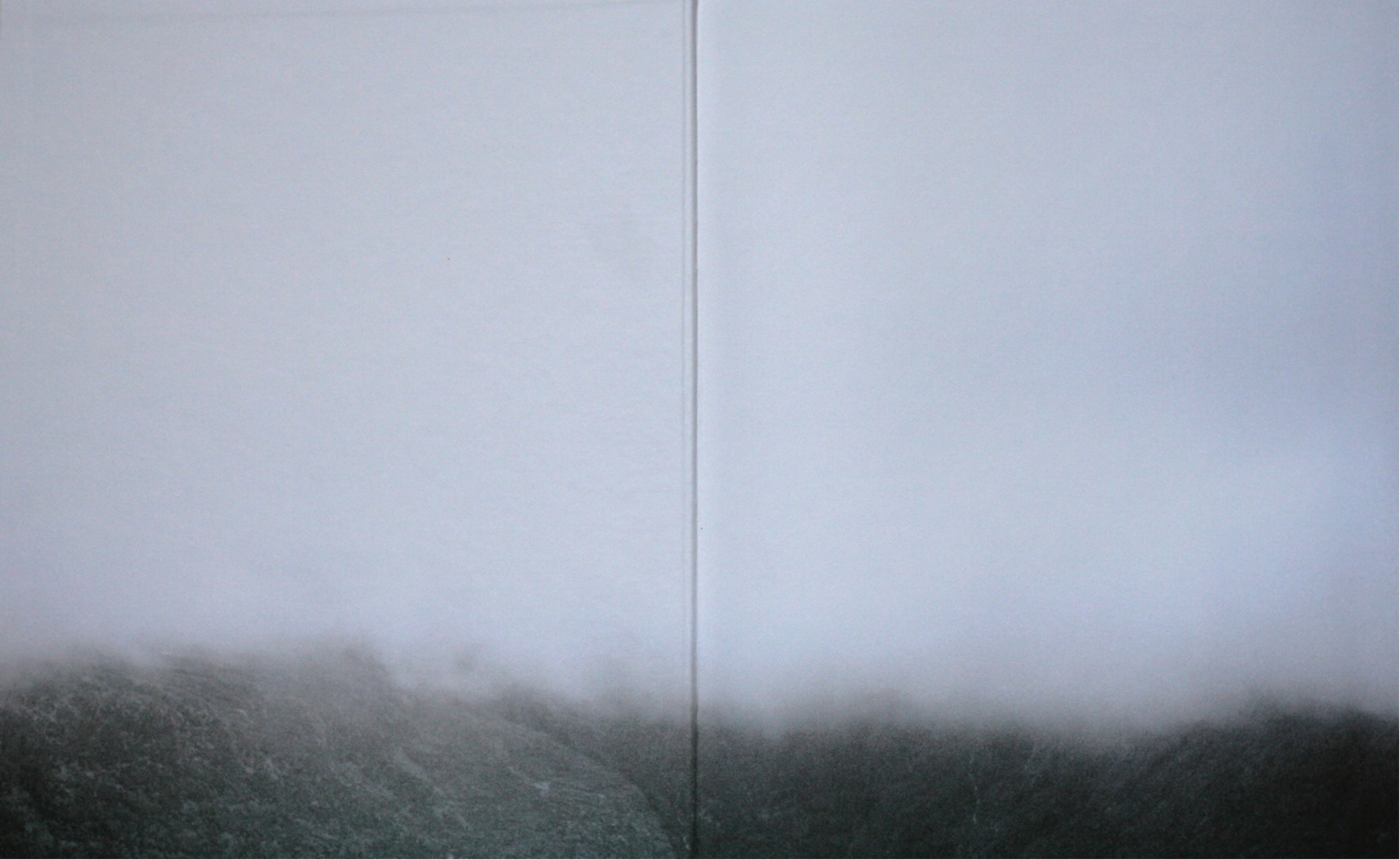

True Norwegian Black Metal

we turn in the night consumed by fire

Photography by Peter Beste

Edited by Johan Kugelberg

Introduction by Jon 'Metalion' Kristiansen

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DESIGNED BY: Taylor Brigode for Octopuss Ltd.

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in girum imus nocte et consumimur igni

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TORE

Over the last two decades, a bizarre and violent musical subculture called black metal has emerged in Norway. Its roots stem from a heady blend of horror movies, heavy metal music, satanism, pagan mythology, and adolescent angst. In the early to mid-1990s, members of this extremist underground committed murder, burned down medieval wooden churches, and desecrated graveyards.

Black metal music and its visuals comprise the most extreme rock 'n' roll youth movement to date. Sonically, it is heavy metal pushed to its maximum: Blitzkrieg pace, guttural vocals, and visual and lyrical subject matter embracing what most people try not to think about. Leather, spikes, face paint, and brandished weapons are not only de rigueur, but congenial with a clearly stated stanza of outsider-dom. Everyday Norwegians have responded with shock and loathing while the mainstream has responded with abject horror and tabloid outrage.

The spectacle of tabloid journalism and the well-documented violence of the early 90s fail to explain the constantly expanding, worldwide appeal of this movement. The same subculture that initially embraced obscurity, solitude, and its inherent marginality instead has reverberated around the world, trickling into the mainstream and becoming Norway's largest musical export. Bands with their roots in the events of the early 90s now regularly reach gold and platinum sales and sell concert tickets in the thousands.

Norway is the 4th richest country in the world, one with an incredibly high education rate and an overall high quality of life. The fjords, glaciers and mountains that make up its majestic landscape have inspired singers and poets for thousands of years. In the north the skies are engulfed by 24 hours of darkness in the heart of winter and up to 24 hours of sunlight in the summertime.

On the surface, there doesn't seem much to rebel against. The essentials of life are provided by the state. One can make approximately $35,000 annually as a welfare recipient, and it's not difficult to collect for many years. There is little poverty as the rest of the world knows it in Norway. Until recently, all Norwegians were automatically born into the Church, even though actual church attendance is low. There is little separation between church and state, and when one rebels against the powers that be it is often against the church, as it is the most visible and potent symbol of societal control.

As the black metal scene developed its own ideology in the late 80s/early 90s, a few adherents decided to turn their disdain for Christianity into action. They moved to strike back against the Church in the most literal and destructive way possible; by burning Christian places of worship. It helped, of course, that the buildings were constructed of wood, and that most of the locales were far removed from town centers. The arsons were not part of a carefully orchestrated plan, but rather spur of the moment. Within the innermost circle of the subculture these arsons became a matter of pride and honor, defining stature and swagger. One-upmanship ensued, and violent deeds and acts escalated.

To many members of the Norwegian black metal community, the veneer of Christianity was thin. Historically, Norway's pagan religions have been belittled by the Church, a sentiment often echoed by its society. What was heroic, larger than life and epic in Norwegian heritage was now taught as myth, or modified by the church to fit into Christian parameters. Former pagan holidays were now Christian. Ancient folk tales were given Christian morals. Old Norse folk songs now had Christian lyrics. The most insidious conversion methods had been subtle and effective. The definition of oppression and totalitarianism for the teenage Norwegian metalhead, the Christian church became a symbolic target, which did not prevent disenfranchised youth from charging head first, like Don Quixote.

The torching of the medieval wooden churches, some as old as 1000 years, shook Norway to its core. Most considered the arsons reprehensible, though some saw them as a valid retaliation against Christianity's brutal conversion methods. Many of the buildings that were burned bore pre-Christian aesthetics and architectural detail the arsonists claimed to be celebrating. This inconsistency hints at the frenzied nature of the events and the thoughts behind them.

There were those who realized that when a church burns another will be built in its place. In the face of an adversary, a community rallies around its faith, which is an argument utilized by both sides for opposing means. Euronymous, of the group Mayhem, saw the arsons as a method for generating societal dividing lines, furthering an Us-against-Them agenda, vital to the black metal movement.

This sentiment was echoed by priest Rolf Armand Rasmussen, who ultimately viewed the arson of his parish church, Asane, in 1992, as an event that brought people together and increased church attendance manifold. A movement that started as juvenile frenzy came to symbolize a war against Christianity. An aggressive, cultish pride and a complete rejection of mainstream society has been reverberating across the globe from its epicenter in Norway ever since.

JK & PB

Throughout the 1990s, I read as much as I could about Norwegian black metal. Feeding my fascination, I began to acquire a context for this strange and amazing music coming from this frigid dark place on the other side of the world. Each account seemed more and more fantastical—epic, absurd, even insane. I remember wondering if all of this were mere spectacle, or if the events, people, and music were for real. As I kept exploring, my fascination grew into obsession with the increasing realization that it was both theatrics *and* very real.

I finished college in 2001 and had little idea what I wanted to do with my accumulated skills as a photographer. I attended a few Norwegian black metal shows and quickly realized that this was the perfect direction for my photography to take me. In the spring of 2002 I made my first trip to Norway. Of the few connections I had made, some agreed to pose for me if I could make it over there. I had no idea how I would then spend the other 23 hours of my day in this cold and foreign place, much less the remaining 5 weeks of my first visit.

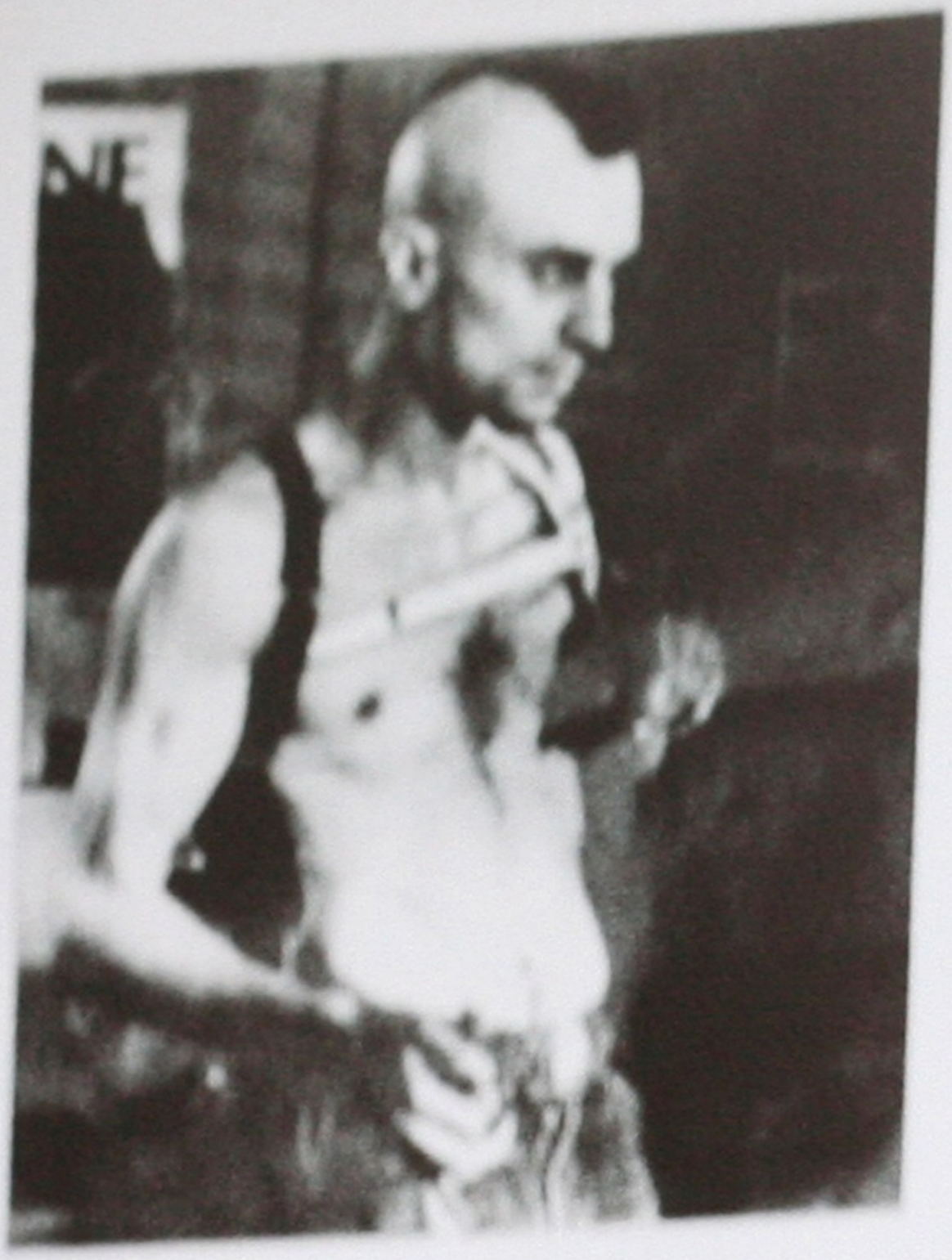
Through the years I found myself welcomed into the homes of many solitary, often reclusive and obscure characters. In addition to the stereotypical moments I expected to find, I also found some very human ones—some of which weren't necessarily for the camera. I slowly found myself permitted to share a very personal space with some of these people and it is from here that my sincerest work has come.

Having my photographs appear in Norwegian tabloids, on black metal album covers, and in exhibits were only by-products of my fascination. The real reward was earning the trust and respect of the core of this seemingly impenetrable, often elitist community, being shown into their world, and the lasting friendships that have resulted.

I have now been to Norway 13 times, totaling about seven months. With each visit I saw more, photographed more, and eventually sensed that I had accumulated enough material for a book. What you hold is the culmination of seven years of my work on this subject.

My first 5 years on this project, I was left to my own devices. I had grown attached to certain images for certain reasons and created a narrative in my exhibits and on my website. For this book, I enlisted the indispensable editorial assistance of my friend, accomplished writer and editor Johan Kugelberg. Johan has helped me put the work into a larger context. His expertise in the field of documentary photography along with his vast knowledge of youth movements and subcultures has been instrumental in bringing this book together. I hope that together we have created a larger narrative exploring black metal from a visceral perspective, and that the audience can choose to take from it their own experience, bringing yet another interpretive layer to the work.

Peter Beste



Taxi Driver

"The most merciful thing in the world, I think, is the inability of the human mind to correlate all its contents. We live on a placid island of ignorance in the midst of black seas of infinity, and it was not meant that we should voyage far. The sciences, each straining in its own direction, have hitherto harmed us little; but some day the piecing together of dissociated knowledge will open up such terrifying vistas of reality, and of our frightful position therein, that we shall either go mad from the revelation or flee from the deadly light into the peace and safety of a new dark age."

H.P. Lovecraft

An Introduction to True Norwegian Black Metal

By Metalion , Founder of *Slayer Magazine*

One of the good things in my life is that I have observed the birth of black metal since day one, and been able to follow the progression of the genre over the years. I edit a Norwegian metal fanzine called *Slayer*. This is my story. In early 1983 I joined some schoolmates to make a small fanzine called *Live Wire*. It was pretty mainstream for a fanzine, so we would steal things from bigger magazines. We'd go to the record store, listen to new metal releases, and then review the records. Within the year we released three issues. By the summer of 1984 the other guys lost their passion for it and I was ready to move forward on my own. This was the birth of the *Slayer* fanzine.

In February 1985 the first issue was released. It was a tiny little photocopied thing, but I was extremely proud of it. With this publication I started to get more and more contacts in the underground, and even if the first issue didn't sell many copies, I went straight to work putting together *Slayer #2*. I brought some copies to a Motorhead concert in Oslo in the summer of 1985. This was a big success for me and I sold a lot of copies. More importantly, that night I met Necro Butcher and Euronymous from the young band Mayhem. They both bought the magazine, and I was extremely excited to find out there was a band like Mayhem in Norway. A few months went by, and then I received a letter from Andre Gjos, a friend of Mayhem's, who wanted me to cover them in my magazine. Andre passed on my message, and a few weeks later I had Necro Butcher on the phone. He invited me to come and check out their rehearsals. By this time it was early 1985. It was very exciting for me to get to know them personally. For the first time ever I actually met someone who had similar taste in music, movies, and books. That was a brand new experience for me. I had people coming over to my place to listen to records and sharing my passion for *Slayer*, Venom and Hellhammer. It was amazing. Our friendship grew—in the beginning mostly with Necro Butcher, but as time passed it was Euronymous I had the strongest connection with. We would meet on weekends to discuss and listen to obscure bands we had discovered. We found a lot of gold in each other's record collections. I got to see Mayhem rehearse numerous times with their first singer, Billy Messiah, back when Mayhem were only doing Celtic Frost and Venom covers.

I introduced Mayhem to the underground network that I had become a part of through the fanzine. This developed by writing letters, trading tapes, and getting to know extreme metal fans around the world. By discovering more and more people who were doing the same thing the word spread, and a global network was growing. At the time, we didn't entirely understand what we were a part of because it was all so new and exciting. When you are in the middle of everything, sometimes it is hard to see what is really happening around you. Now when I look back I realize what we did was groundbreaking. I also find it strange to think about how extreme things got, and how quickly they got that way.

I travelled with Mayhem in the summer of 1986 around Europe visiting friends we made through the underground network. Mayhem had their *Pure Fucking Armageddon* demo, and we promoted it high and low. Copies ended up in hands of members of Sodom, Kreator, Assassin and many others. We also made the trek to London to the infamous record store Shades, which was the place to get extreme metal records. One of the guys working there was Dave Constable who was the editor of *Metal Forces*, a very important metal magazine in those days. He reviewed the demo, and although it was a shitty review it gained us a lot of exposure. Mayhem was getting more attention, and the letters written to us increased greatly. Throughout 1986 we brought more people into this extreme kind of metal. One of those guys was Maniac, who later became the singer of Mayhem. Maniac came from a small rural town in Norway called Rjukan, a four hour drive from Oslo, straight into the mountainside. At that time we would go to ordinary metal shows. I met Maniac at a Mötley Crüe concert in the winter of 1986. Maniac was publishing his own fanzine, *Damage Inc*, which he released two issues of. It was decided that he should share the vocals with Messiah on the 1987 *Deathcrush* recording session, Mayhem's second demo and first proper record.

This first recording of an extreme metal band from Norway was groundbreaking. More importantly, it was an independent release. The recording was funded by well-meaning friends, and the product was distributed through the underground channels. I personally sold 200 copies, and a lot of people were helping to sell this. Euronymous knew a bit about how the punks did it with their DIY releases. He had a friend called Oyvind Ihlen who published a punk fanzine called *Panic*, which I believe was the first fanzine to feature Mayhem. Euronymous learned a lot about the DIY thing from him and applied these ideas to the Metal scene. We sold the product ourselves and did everything. There were no middlemen, so we were able to offer the product at a lower price. Later this progressed into a network where we exchanged records with other like-minded people around the world. Obscure records were traded and found their new homes in the growing population of manic extreme metalheads.

Writing letters with like-minded people is how it worked. This was the only way to get the music we wanted, and it was an amazing feeling not to have to deal with any record shops or mail order companies. It was our own world. You had to be dedicated to get this music, and it was surely an obsession. This level of obsession and devotion is a part of how I have come to interpret the dark events that were to follow. There was a certain open-mindedness within the realm of our extreme interests, and we branched out beyond metal. We made contact with other music scenes, like the extreme industrial scene (Psychic TV, etc.), and with the splatter movie scene. We mostly got terrible 10th generation VHS copies of the movies—copies of copies of copies. It was very hard to get duplicates made as most people only had one video recorder. Personally, The Evil Dead was a big inspiration, and if you look at *Slayer Magazine*, the page borders I created were very much influenced by the fist two Evil Dead movies. Also, the name of my magazine is taken from an obscure horror movie called The Slayer.

In 1987/1988, Maniac was having problems rehearsing with Mayhem, so he more or less left the band. After a short stint with members of the group Vomit (Torben Grue on drums and Kittil Kittilsen on vocals) something important happened. Enter Dead. Dead was the singer of the Swedish group Morbid. He had heard about Mayhem through *Metal Forces* magazine and decided to send Mayhem a rehearsal tape of his band. I remember very well hearing that tape for the first time. It was truly something else. The sound of Dead's vocals, his lyrics, and his well thought out promo pictures created a greater understanding of how things should be for a black metal band. This all came from his unique and humble personality.

I just had to write about this band. After I contacted them, Dead started to call me, mostly during the night. We would end up talking for hours and hours about everything. I learned so much from this guy, and he became a huge influence on me. He was very respectful, almost reverential, and had complete blind faith in me. Our bond strengthened through endless phone conversations where we discussed everything from the latest albums to the Swedish metal scene, as well as his fascination with death.

The plot was to get him to Norway to join Mayhem, which eventually happened. Dead lived under pretty extreme conditions when he first arrived, but he didn't seem to mind. There was no money for anything. Around the same time, Hellhammer joined on drums, which strengthened Mayhem as a musical unit. With the new line-up, a more distinct path was built in terms of image and music. By this time the Brazilian band Sarcofago had released their classic album *INRI*, which was a huge source of inspiration for Dead and Euronymous. The South Americans had a very distinctive sound. The production was sub par, but that added to the unique quality of the music. It was part of our landscape, like xeroxed cassette covers or multi-generation VHS dubs of splatter movies. More and more, the idea of how a band should look became important. Around this time, there were many mainstream death metal bands from Florida who wore surfer shorts and sang about social issues. We thought they were ridiculous. To us, the music should be about death, evil, and darkness. No political shit. Death means dark, so for us seeing bands in colorful clothing was simply silly. They gave the impression that this was something light-hearted, but we took it very seriously. Originally it was only Dead who wore the trademark corpse paint, (which he brought with him from the Morbid days) but soon the whole band started using it. It is impossible to say for sure where corpse paint came from. Some would say the obvious things like Kiss and Alice Cooper, while others would claim that it came from those cannibal horror movies. I think that by using corpse paint we were getting closer to the essence of death. By looking like a corpse we withdrew further from everyday life, and deeper into our fantasy world.

Mayhem was going through turbulent times. A lot of things were planned but

nothing really happened, so a lot of frustration came out of that. They played a few local gigs, as well as a few shows in Germany and Turkey, courtesy of the international extreme metal underground. Mayhem managed to record two songs in the studio, "Freezing Moon" and a re-recorded version of "Carnage" for a sampler released by the Swedish label Chickenbrain Records. Sadly, that was the only studio material that this version of Mayhem would record. For Dead, all this was getting to him, and in April of 1991, he decided to end his earthly life. Things were never the same after that.

I think that Dead didn't have much of a life experience, and it was hard for him to fight all these battles, while not even having food on the table. When he was a kid he had a near death experience, and I always thought he wanted to go back to that state. It is interesting that in his suicide letter he talked about the warmth in people. I think he was a very misunderstood person. There was a depth to him that few people got to see. There was a lot of confusion surrounding his suicide. This was before the internet so it took a long time to for the information to spread. It traveled mostly by letters. Strange things happened in the wake of his death. Euronymous took pictures of Dead's corpse after his suicide. A few people got copies of the photos and one ultimately ended up on the cover of the bootleg *Dawn Of The Black Hearts*. Members of Mayhem used pieces of Dead's skull for necklaces. I think all this proves how extreme and insane things were back then. I don't think people really realized what they were doing. The distinction between fantasy and reality was becoming blurred. It was difficult for us to fully grasp the reality of these events. In our world, everything was supposed to be as extreme as possible, and normal human feelings were not supposed to be present. It became a grotesque fantasy. Necro Butcher decided that enough was enough and left the band. He thought everything was going too far. He had a daughter, too, so his values were changing.

Euronymous didn't seem too emotional over the loss of his comrade, but we were all good at hiding our feelings then. He was more concerned with his new idea: A black metal record store. In addition to his growing record label, Deathlike Silence Productions, he thought a record store would be a great way to "spread the black plague to the grey mass." I remember having a meeting about this in my hometown of Sarpsborg with Euronymous, Geir Brattelie and Stian Johansen (also known as Occultus and numerous other pseudonyms). Occultus was doing a fanzine called *Sepulchral Noise*, and was involved in bands like Thyabhorrent and Perdition Hearse. Geir Brattelie was a guy who was part of the scene and a fan of the music. These two would become Euronymous' partners in the record shop. I came up with the name of the store, HELVETE, which is Norwegian for Hell. Euronymous found a really big place in Oslo with a huge basement and a lot of spare rooms. It suited us perfectly. Not only would this be a good place for a store, but also perfect as a hangout for the Norwegian black metal community.

In the beginning we didn't have much of a selection, mostly second hand vinyl that we donated from our personal collections. The store became the meeting place for people in the scene, and was very important to us. People would come from far away just to hang out. Euronymous was always polite and talked to everyone about his visions of black metal. He talked about the first generation of black metal bands who just sang about devil worship, and he encouraged the new Norwegian bands to take it to the next level, and to truly embody what they were singing about. Many people were influenced by his words. Members of Immortal, Darkthrone, and several other bands visited the store often. Musicians developed their concepts more and more towards what was to become known as "True Norwegian Black Metal." Darkthrone was always around the HELVETE store. They made their debut album *Soulside Journey* which was more like Swedish death metal than anything else, but they defined the black metal sound on their second album *A Blaze In The Northern Sky*, which soon became the most popular album in our scene. It was a huge influence and a yardstick for everyone. Another important band was Immortal who had an epic sound on their debut album. Both bands were on solid labels, (Darkthrone on Peaceville and Immortal on Osmose) so they managed to break out to a wider audience.

In November 1991 Christian "Varg" Vikernes showed up on the scene. It was the weekend when Morbid Angel, Entombed, and Unleashed played in Oslo, and the gathering at the HELVETE store was incredibly big. There was this new kid there. I remember not speaking to him much, but Euronymous later informed me that this guy had his own one man black metal band called Burzum. It was later decided that Burzum's debut album was to be released on Euronymous' Deathlike Silence label. After Vikernes was introduced to our circle it soon became known that his mother was very supportive of him and his music. You can say that he bought himself into the scene with his mother's money. She funded Burzum studio recordings as well as the pressing of Deathlike Silence vinyl. A lot can be said about what would have happened if Vikernes' mother had not provided her financial support. It is obvious that she did a lot for her son in this regard and, as usual, money runs the world.

All of a sudden Vikernes had a major presence in the scene. I had heard nothing about him before except that he was a member of a death metal band called Old Funeral. He bonded with Euronymous quickly, and a deadly alliance was born. A lot happened quickly: The Burzum album came out, churches started to burn, people were killed, and graves were desecrated. At this point, the Norwegian media had not yet managed to link these events to this new phenomenon that was born in Oslo. People in the scene began to brag about burning churches and desecrating graves. Even if it wasn't a contest, it was certainly close. Vikernes was an active participant in these events, and the discussions surrounding them. These things were talked about with awe and respect, and a lot of the people in the inner black metal circle knew these secrets.

By late 1992 and early 1993 there was a growing interest in black metal from the mainstream media. This is when the infamous article on the events in Norway appeared in Britain's *Kerrang Magazine*. Things got too extreme and scary very quickly. People started to talk with journalists, and then the police started coming around. They were serious. People were interrogated, brought to the police station, and some were arrested. Everyone wanted the attention of the press and, by talking to them, thought they were doing Satan's work. A lot of people chose to do their interviews anonymously, while others fed on media attention. Personally that was never a big deal to me. We didn't know how to properly deal with the press so they had a field day with us. This led to the arrest of Christian Vikernes as a suspect in several church burnings. He was later released, which led to the tragedy of Vikernes murdering Euronymous on the 10th of August 1993.

After Euronymous was killed I went blank for a while. I was friends with both Euronymous and Vikernes and had written about their bands in *Slayer*. Imagine having your best friend murdered by another close friend. It took a long time to process my feelings and thoughts about this. I am still thinking about it often, and it has not been easy to deal with.

As foreign interest in black metal grew, the events surrounding people like Dead, Euronymous, Bård Faust and Vikernes was looked upon as mythical and legendary. It all turned into a media circus complete with books, tv programs, websites, and much speculation. To outsiders, I guess those strange people up there in Norway seemed mysterious, scary, and maybe even glamorous. It was difficult to interpret at the time because I was in the middle of it. This explosion of interest kept growing. Although we had seen hints of what was to come before the murder of Euronymous, it was beyond anything I had ever expected. I remember Euronymous and I talked about how black metal would be over if a big label started to sign bands from our scene. Little did we know... Mayhem's monumental release *De Mysteriis Dom Sathanas* was recorded before the death of Euronymous and released after his murder. I think this record is a masterpiece, but it also feels strange knowing about the people involved, and the death of my friend Euronymous. I do feel honored to have been a part of all this though. I witnessed black metal from the beginning when the first black seed was born and have followed it throughout the horrors and the amazing music, up until this day.

What has happened since the early 1990s is more or less in the public eye. It has been an explosion I never expected to see. It is very inspiring to see the work of Peter Beste, an outsider to the scene, who gained the confidence of many an individual in the black metal scene. By looking at this book I think everything goes back to those early days of the HELVETE store. Everything that has been created since is rooted there. I am proud to have taken part in this, and I am interested to see how Peter views all this in his vision as a documentary photographer. He has inspired me to pick up the camera. I hope to do a book myself.

Norwegian Black Metal Timeline

By Tarn G. Warrior

Christianization of Norway
995 AD King Olaf I
1015 AD King Olaf II

995 AD

1844 Friedrich Nietzsche born in Röcken, Prussian Saxony.

1875 Aleister Crowley born Edward Alexander Crowley in Warwickshire, England.

1883 *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* by Friedrich Nietzsche published.

1888 *The Case of Wagner* Nietzsche criticizes Wagner's music calling it sick.

1888 *Twilight of the Idols* by Friedrich Nietzsche published.

1890 Howard Phillips Lovecraft born in Providence, Rhode Island, USA.

1850

1892 JRR Tolkien born. His written work *Lord of the Rings* Trilogy would provide countless metal bands with names, album titles, and lyrical inspiration.

1900 Norwegian artist Theodor Kittelsen publishes *Svartedauen*, aka *The Black Death*, a book of artwork depicting the late arrival of the Black Death in Norway. These illustrations would become notable and famous outside of Norway nearly one century later on several Burzum album covers.

1904 *The Book of the Law*, is published. The famous quote "Do What Thou Wilt Shall Be The Whole Of The Law" is not only the cornerstone of Crowley's philosophies and teachings, but also became a motto disenfranchised teenagers adopted out of context almost a century later.

1930 Anton LaVey, founder of the Church of Satan born Howard Levey Chicago, Illinois, USA.

1966 Anton LaVey founds Church of Satan in San Francisco, California, USA. LaVey would court publicity, appearing on talk shows, and staging events such as Satanic weddings and baptisms.

1966 Quorthon of Bathory born Tomas Forsberg on February 17 in Sweden.

1967 Jon "Metalion" Kristiansen born May 20 Sarpsborg, Norway.

1967 May 13, Chuck Schuldiner of Death born in Long Island, New York, USA.

1968 Occult rock group Coven founded in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

1968 Birth of Euronymous of Mayhem, Deathlike Silence Productions and the Helvete record shop on April 15th as Oystein Aarseth.

1969 Coven's LP *Witchcraft Destroys Minds and Reaps Souls* is released. The album features what is believed to be the first recording of a Black Mass on a rock album. In addition to blatant occult imagery, the band incorporated Satanic elements into their live act, garnering praise from Anton LaVey.

1969 Black Sabbath formed in Birmingham, England.

1969 Anton LaVey writes *The Satanic Bible*, citing such influences as Machiavelli, Ayn Rand, and Nietzsche. Some say large portions were plagiarized from an obscure early 20th century tract by pseudonymous social darwinist Ragnar Redbeard. The book has been continuously in print ever since.

1969 Jan 16, Per Yngve Ohlin born Jan 16 in Sweden. Would later adopt the moniker of "Dead" in his musical career.

1970 Black Sabbath's self-titled debut LP released on Friday, February 13.

1972 Klaus Schulze's *Irrlicht* LP is released. Euronymous cited this as a great influence.

1973 Black Sabbath's LP *Sabbath Bloody Sabbath* features Satanic cover art and songs featuring synthesizer work and both prog-rock and classical elements.

1973 *The Exorcist* (Dir. William Friedkin) based on the book by William Peter Blatty is released and becomes a worldwide success.

1973 Birth of Christian Vikernes, also known as Varg Vikernes, also known as Count Grishnackh on Feb 11 outside of Bergen, Norway.

1975 Italian prog rock band Goblin, best known for composing film scores for horror director Dario Argento, are formed.

1976 *The Omen* (Dir. Richard Donner) is released and becomes a worldwide success.

1980

1977 Death SS formed in Milan, Italy. The band is notable for their ultra-heavy sound, occult lyrical content and imagery; combining horror theatrics into their stage show, using evil pseudonyms, and wearing corpse paint makeup.

1977 *Suspiria* directed by Dario Argento is released in theatres. Goblin's original soundtrack album released.

1979 *Zombie* (Dir. Lucio Fulci) is released.

1979 Venom formed in Newcastle upon Tyne, England.

1980 Bulldozer formed in Milan, Italy.

1981 *The Evil Dead* (Dir. Sam Raimi) is released. This film becomes an underground must-see in Scandinavia throughout the 1980's.

1981 Venom's *Welcome To Hell* LP is released.

1981 Mercyful Fate is formed in Copenhagen. Notable for Satanic/occult themes and imagery, singer King Diamond's use of corpse paint and wide vocal range.

1982 Sodom formed in Gelsenkirchen, Germany. Later that year the *Witching Metal* demo tape is released.

1982 Venom's landmark *Black Metal* arrives on the scene, complete with a Satanic goat head on its otherwise pitch black cover. The album both served as one of the primary musical inspirations for Norwegian Black Metal as well as coining the term which would name the subgenre.

1982 Hellhammer formed in Zurich, Switzerland. Euronymous would later adopt his stage moniker from the title of one of their songs.

1983 Morbid Angel formed in Tampa, Florida, USA.

1983 Possessed formed San Francisco, California, USA.

1983 Hellhammer release demotapes *Death Fiend* and *Triumph Of Death*.

1983 Mantas formed in Altamonte Springs, Florida, USA. The band records the highly influential *Death By Metal* demo tape.

1983 Bathory formed in Stockholm, Sweden.

1984 Possessed's *Death Metal* demo is released. Believed to be the first time the phrase was coined and used.

1984 *Scandinavian Metal Attack* compilation LP released. Bathory contributes two tracks.

1984 Sodom release the *Victims of Death* demo tape followed by the *In The Sign Of Evil* EP.

1984 Mayhem formed in Ski, Norway.

1984 Bathory's self-titled debut LP is released.

1984 Hellhammer's *Satanic Rites* demo is released, followed by the *Apocalyptic Raids* EP later the same year. By 1984's end, Hellhammer dissolved and became Celtic Frost, recording and releasing the *Morbid Tales* EP.

1984 Mantas changes their name to become Death, reissuing the *Death by Metal* demo under their new moniker. Also that year, the band releases both live and rehearsal recordings, in addition to previously released demos onto the burgeoning tape trading scene.

1985 Death release the *Infernal Death* demo.

1985 Possessed release the *Seven Churches* full length LP.

1985 First issue of *Slayer* magazine published. The issue is written entirely in Norwegian, as all issues would be until issue 5.

1985 Celtic Frost's landmark first full length release *To Mega Therion* is released featuring Swiss artist H.R. Giger's "Satan I" on its cover.

1985 Sacrogfago is formed in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Their blatant use of Satanic imagery and corpsepainted, bullet-belted appearance will prove influential to the Norwegians.

1986 Sodom release their *Obsessed By Cruelty* LP. The first track, "Deathlike Silence," would later provide the name of Euronymous's black metal label.

1986 Sarcofago release the *Satanic Lust* and *The Black Vomit* demos.

1986 Morbid Angel release the *Scream Forth Blasphemies* and *Bleed For The Devil* demos.

1986 Mortuary Drape are formed in Alessandria, Italy.

1986 Tormentor formed in Budapest, Hungary.

1986 Mayhem release the *Pure Fucking Armageddon* demo.

1986 Morbid are formed in Stockholm, Sweden. The lineup includes Per Yngve Ohlin, aka "Dead."

1987 Mayhem release the *Deathcrush* mini LP. The release would establish the Norwegian black metal sound. The EP is dedicated to Metalion of Slayer magazine.

1987 Rotting Christ formed in Athens, Greece.

1987 Darkthrone formed in Kolbotn, Norway. Formed as a death metal outfit, they changed their sound and adopted demonic stage names upon meeting Euronymous.

1987 Treblinka formed in Stockholm, Sweden. Notable for their black metal sound and use of corpsepaint make up.

1987 Necrovore's *Divus De Mortuus* demo recorded and released. Early on, this San Antonio, Texas group were cited as an influence by Mayhem, and championed in the international underground metal tape-trading community.

1987 With the publication of issue 5, its first all-English edition, *Slayer* magazine goes international.

1988 Treblinka releases *Crawling In Vomits* demo.

1988 Old Funeral formed in Bergen, Norway. The band was more notable for its ex-members than its music. Abbath and Demonaz of Immortal, Varg Vikernes of Burzum, and Jorn Tunsberg of Hades Almighty and Immortal all were members.

1989 Beherit formed in Rovoniemi, Lapland, Finland. Three isolated teens donned corpsepaint and spikes and became pioneers of the minimal and pummeling black metal sound.

1989 Dissection formed in Strömstad, Sweden.

1989 Thorns formed in Trondheim, Norway. Founder Snorre Ruch is best known for establishing the Norwegian black metal guitar sound, as well as being the man who accompanied Varg Vikernes on the long drive from Bergen to Olso that ended with Vikernes killing Euronymous.

1989 Von formed in San Francisco, California, USA. Varg Vikernes notably wore a Von t-shirt during his murder trial.

1989 Abruptum formed in Finspang, Sweden. Notable for being early pioneers of the dark ambient style, marked by synth work and screams. Signed by Euronymous to his Deathlike Silence label.

1989 Founding of Deathlike Silence record label by Euronymous. It is the first label dedicated solely to black metal. The imprint had distribution through Voices of Wonder, all releases were tagged "Anti-Mosh" and numbered. The label's life and its founder's would be abruptly cut short.

1990 Immortal formed in Bergen, Norway.

1990 Impaled Nazarene formed in Oulu, Finland.

1990 Bathory's *Hammerheart* LP is released. A concept album detailing the Christian invasion of Scandinavia and the forced conversion to Christianity.

1990 Satyricon formed in Oslo.

1991 Mayhem's *Dawn of the Black Hearts* bootleg is released with a cover featuring a photo of Dead's body taken by Euronymous. A recording of a notorious 1990 Sarpsborg gig, organized by *Slayer* magazine's Metalion, after which Dead was hospitalized as a result of severly cutting himself on stage.

1991 Marduk release *Fuck Me Jesus* demo.

1991 Thorns release *Grymrk* demo.

1991 Von release *Satanic Blood* LP.

1991 Sadistik Exekution's LP *The Magus* is released. Metalion later acquires several copies from the band, donating them to the Helvete shop. Euronymous becomes a fan and is photographed wearing one of their t-shirts.

1991 Beherit release *The Oath of Black Blood* LP.

1991 Emperor formed in Notodden, Norway.

1991 The Helvete record shop opens early summer in Oslo.

1991 Burzum are formed in Bergen, Norway. Notable for being the one man band of the notorious Varg Vikernes. A Tolkien fan, Varg chooses the name "Burzum," meaning darkness in Tolkien's Lord of the Rings Trilogy. Varg's early alias of "Count Grishnaehk" was taken from Tolkien as well—a modification of the name of an Orc, the beasts who make up the Dark Army and Middle Earth. Both Tolkien themes and Norse mythology color the music of Burzum. Beginning as black metal of the raw/primitive variety, Burzum's music later became purely electronic due to Vikernes' incarceration, since Norwegian prisons forbid guitars.

1991 Enslaved formed in Haugesund, Norway.

1991 On April 12 of 1991, Mayhem vocalist Dead commits suicide in the house he shared with Mayhem guitarist Euronymous, who photographed the body upon discovering it.

1992 Darkthrone release the *A Blaze In The Northern Sky* LP showing off their new, stunningly primitive, sound.

1992 Emperor release the *Wrath of the Tyrant* demo.

1992 The burning of the Fantoft stave church in Bergen, Norway on June 6th, 1992.

1992 Infernus forms Gorgoroth in Bergen, Norway Their name comes from JRR Tolkien, who gave the name Gorgoroth to the plains in the evil lands of Mordor from which the volcanic Mount Doom sprang. The band see their music as a vehicle for spreading their vehement anti-Christian beliefs.

1992 Ulver formed in Oslo, Norway.

1980 1991 1992 1993

"When I was young I was attending to the kind of lessons that were based on Christian theory and practice. I didn't understand any of it back then. I was very young and unconscious about my own life and my own thoughts. Many years later I had of course changed my viewpoints, but I was still very unconscious. I entered Euronymous' shop in Oslo; a shop called Helvete or Hell in English. It was all black with a kind of very extreme people that you would never see in the streets back then. The atmosphere in there was very special. I still consider it to be very special. There and then wearing my upside down cross, my dark clothes, my leather jacket, and all that, I just realized that this is for me. I had never really understood anything before, but this was my path—my kind of style, and it has been ever since. I would say that from there on, I started digging into things. It was that kind of kick in the back that made me start examining life instead of just scraping the surface. That is what Satanism is to me. It is that kick in the back that pushes me into realizing a bigger potential."

Frost

"It's important to point out that black metal is not like punk was, a group rebelling. It is every man for himself. It isn't like 'all for one, one for all.' It is individualism above all and 'unfortunately' a childish self-centeredness."

Fenriz

"Pure black, frost, spikes, skin, war paint, corpse paint, the pure black metal. That's all it's all about. And for us, it's from a northern way. We're from Norway, and we represent black metal from Norway. And that's cold, woods, spikes and all that."

Abbath

orgoroth

Stereophonic
YOKOHAMA

REAL
BLOOD

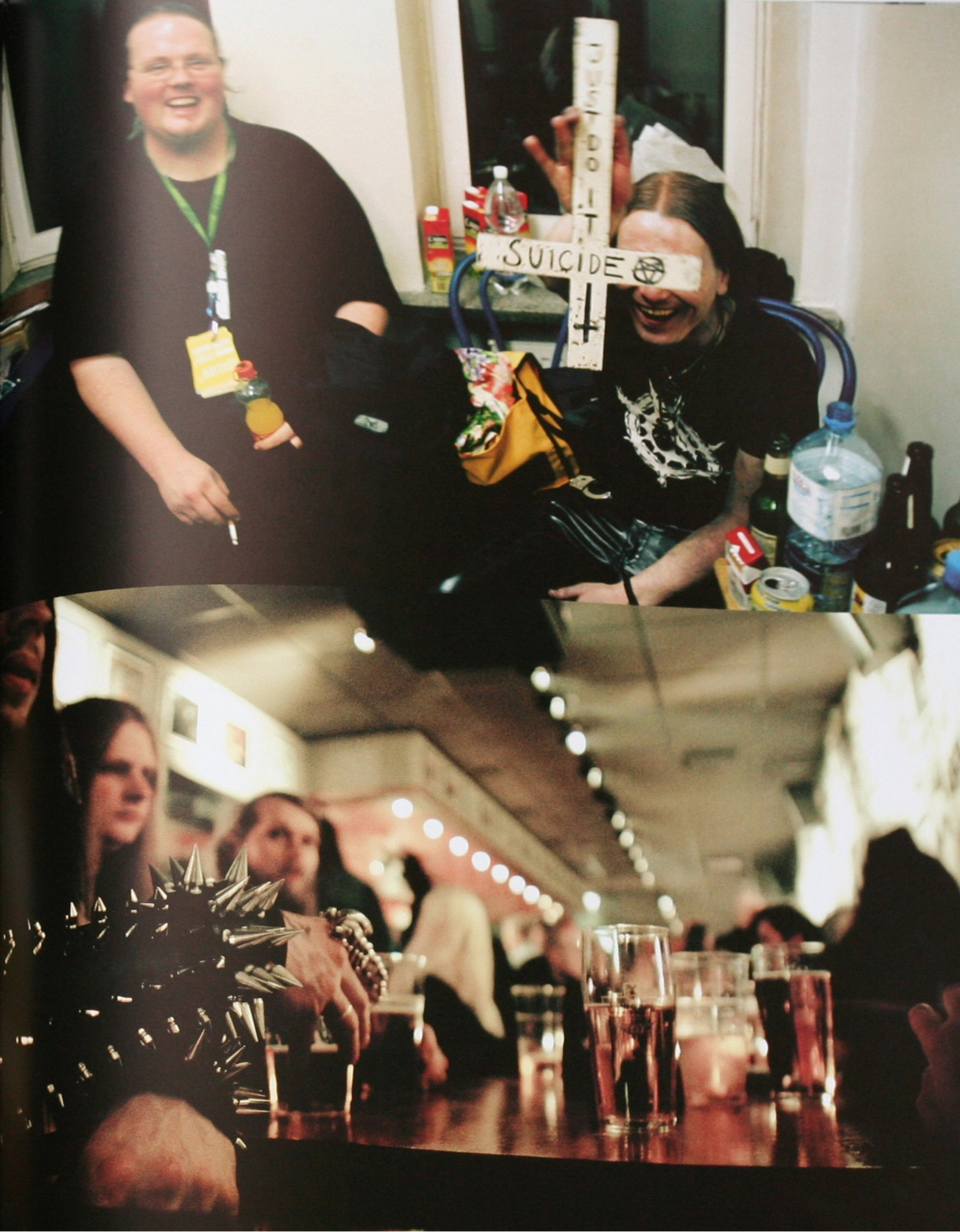
BATHORY

HELL

Enslaved
ACE OF SPADES

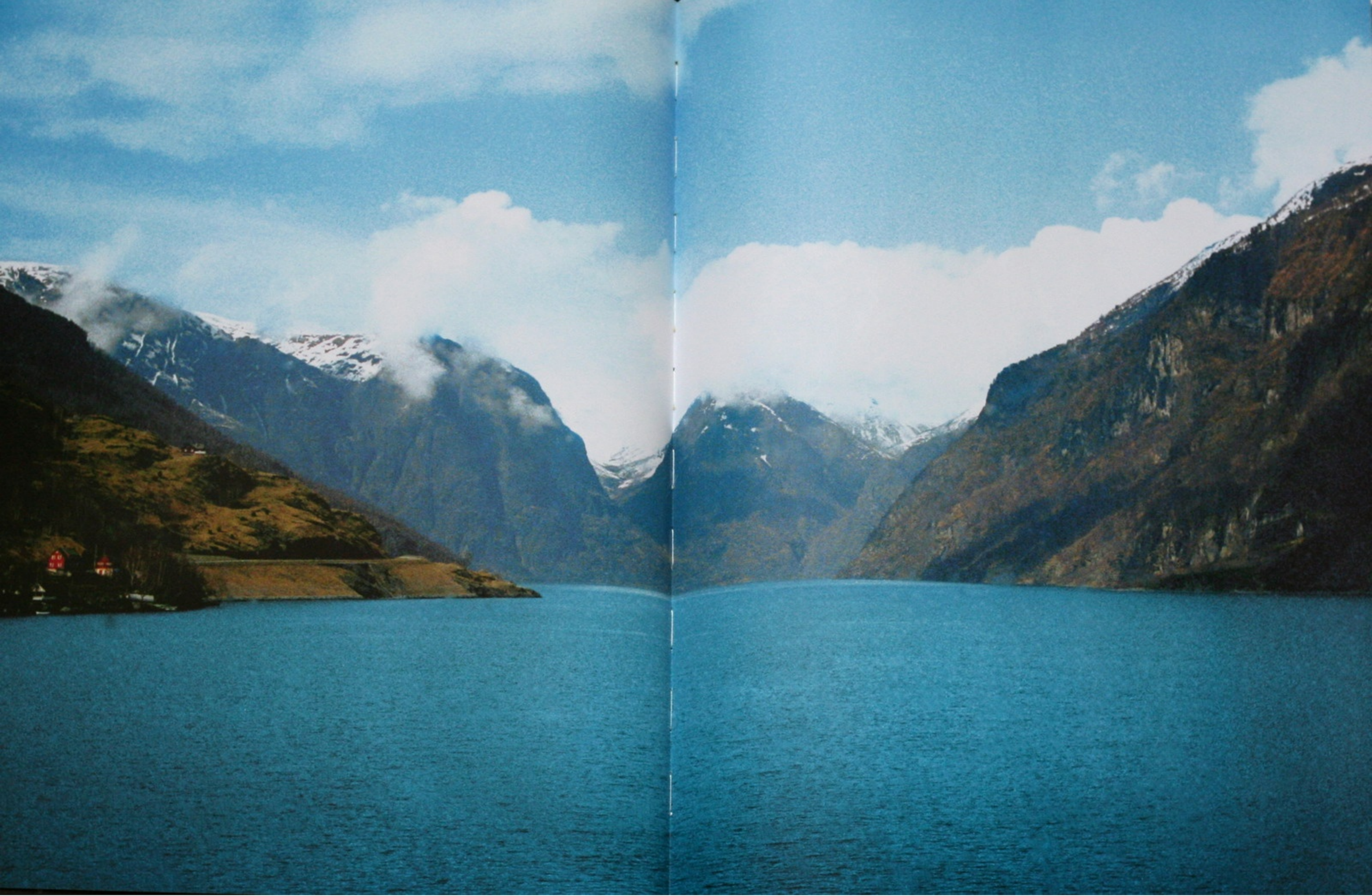
BIG BEN
FILTERS

IRON MAIDEN


DO IT
SUICIDE

NEIL YOUNG TOUR DATES
HEART ATTACK
Geordie
BOWIE QUITS
TELEVISION

The Coffinshakers



"The idea is to be whispering, and not to gain the attention from the flock, but to get attention from the individuals. That's why I relate it to whispering. It's nothing that you can put on a big scale; you can't get sheep to attend to it. You need to have people that can stand for themselves. It is important to have a lot of space for yourself to be able to grow strong branches, which can stand in the most extreme surroundings. It reflects back to the old Norse songs and the idea of having one's own area where you are King. Personally I need nature surrounding me—like mountains, trees and rivers in order to relax, to learn and to teach. All this is very important for my inner self. I think that Christianity has made people afraid of solitude; afraid of the idea of being alone."

Gaahl

URA NO

RZ?
MARKHALT
Norway

"The beauty of flames lies in their strange play, beyond all proportion and harmony. Their diaphanous flare symbolizes at once grace and tragedy, innocence and despair, sadness and voluptuousness. The burning transcendence has something of the lightness of great purifications. I wish the fiery transcendence would carry me up and throw me into a sea of flames, where, consumed by their delicate and insidious tongues, I would die an ecstatic death. The beauty of flames creates the illusion of a pure, sublime death similar to the light of dawn. Immaterial, death in flames is like a burning of light, graceful wings. Do only butterflies die in flames? What about those devoured by the flames within them?"

E. M. Cioran

Tøyengata
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this door,
this is an
emergency exit.
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blokke
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A Blaze in the Northern Sky
Judas Iscariot
Heaven Aflames

STATOIL

290

Teleror
ECHO

"There is nothing more natural than to consider everything as starting from oneself, chosen as the center of the world; one finds oneself thus capable of condemning the world without even wanting to hear its deceitful chatter."

Guy Debord

Photographs

1. Frost of Satyricon, cave in Nesodden.
2. & 3. Nattefrost of Carpathian Forest, Krakow and Oslo.
4. & 5. Koldbrann, Oslo.
6. Ravn of 1349, Nesodden.
7. Nattefrost, Oslo.
8. & 9. Gaahl of Gorgoroth, Bergen.
10. & 11. Hoest of Taake, Bergen.
12. Frost of 1349, Oslo.
13. Archaon of 1349, Oslo.
14. Nattefrost, Sandnes.
15. King ov Hell of Gorgoroth, Bergen, Norway.
16. & 17. Kvitrafn of Wardruna, Sotra.
18. & 19. Nattefrost at home, Oslo.
20. Nattefrost, Oslo.
21. Archaon, Nesodden.
22. & 23. Nattefrost at home, Oslo.
24. King ov Hell, Bergen.
25. & 26. Kvitrafn and passersby, Bergen.
27. & 28. Gorgoroth, Black Mass in Krakow gig.
29. King ov Hell and passersby, Bergen. (top)
Inferno Festival audience, Oslo. (bottom)
30. Emperor Audience, Oslo (top)
Nattefrost, Frogner Park, Oslo. (bottom)
31. Nattefrost, Oslo.
32. Vrangsinn of Carpathian Forest, Sandnes.
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Dolk of Kampfar, near Larvik. (bottom)
36. Mustis of Dimmu Borgir, Bingfoss, Sorumsand.
37. Kvitrafn, Sotra.
38. & 39. King ov Hell, Sotra.
40. & 41. Gaahl on top of Heia Mountain, Espedal.
42. & 43. Gaahl's house, Espedal.
44. & 45. Gaahl and David in Gaahl's living room, Espedal.
46. & 47. Sigfader, Espedal.
48. Gaahl and King ov Hell, Sotra. (top)
Gaahl in front of his grandparents' cabin in winter, Espedal. (bottom)
49. Gaahl in front of his house, Espedal. (top)
Gaahl in front of his grandparents' cabin in spring, Espedal. (bottom)
50. & 51. Gaahl, Espedal.
52. Vrangsinn, Krakow.
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55. Nattefrost and Vrangsinn, Sandnes.
56. Inferno festival queue, Oslo.
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60. Hellhammer and Blasphemer of Mayhem, Oslo.
61. Enzifer of Urgehal, Lier, Buskerud.
62. Pig head at Mayhem gig, Trondheim.
63. & 64. Gorgoroth live in Krakow.
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69. Ravn of 1349 live in Oslo.
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71. Gorgoroth, Black Mass in Krakow gig.
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75. & 76. Sheep heads from Gorgoroth gig, Krakow.
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83. Frost after 1349 performance, Oslo.
84. Metal couple, Hole in the Sky Festival, Bergen.
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86. Gorgoroth, Krakow. (top and bottom)
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88. King ov Hell, backstage at Hole in the Sky Festival, Bergen. (top)
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89. Nattefrost and fan, Krakow. (top)
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92. Nattefrost at home, Oslo.

93. Fenriz in his bedroom, Oslo. (top)
Fenriz and Apollyon at Fenriz' home, Oslo. (bottom)

94. & 95. Fenriz's jacket

96. & 97. View of Bergen from Floyen Mountain

98. & 99. Sogndjord

100. Rebuilt replica of burned down Fantoft church, Bergen.

101. Abbath in the woods of Os.

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104. & 105. Outside Bergen

106. Nattefrost, Sandnes.

107. Nocturno Culto of Darkthrone, Roros.

108. Perished, Mostamarka.

109. & 110. Fenriz on the train, Oslo.

111. Apollyon of Aura Noir, Oslo

112. Metalion, Sarpsborg.

113. & 114. Valfar of Windir (R.I.P.), Sogndal.

115. & 116. Mayhem's first practice space, Ski.

117. & 118. Samoth of Emperor with his daughter, Kongsberg.

119. & 120. Apollyon and Aggressor of Aura Noir, Nordmarka.

121. Bard "Faust" Eithun, formerly of Emperor, Oslo. (top)
Silenoz of Dimmu Borgir, Nannestad. (bottom)

122. Maniac formerly of Mayhem, Oslo (top)
Fenriz waiting for the train, Oslo (bottom)

123. Euronymous' front door, Oslo

124. Abbath, Edward Grieg manor, Bergen

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126. & 127. Fans at Inferno Festival, Oslo.

128. & 129. Hoest of Taake, Floyen Mountain, Bergen

130. Valfar, Sogndal.

131. Sogndal

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133. Grutle of Enslaved, Bergen.

134. & 135. Snorre Ruch of Thorns, Trondheim.

136. & 137. Grutle of Enslaved, Observatory on Floyen Mountain, Bergen.

138. Ymon of Perished, Mostamarka.

139. Maniac's arms, Roros.

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142. & 143. Kvitrafn and Gaahl, Espedal.

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145. King ov Hell, Sotra.

146. & 147. Abbath of Immortal in his backyard, Os.

148. & 149. King ov Hell, Sotra.

150. & 151. Nattefrost, Deathanie, Heidi, Ann and Ivar of Enslaved, Oslo.

152. & 153. King ov Hell, outside Bergen.

154. & 155. Dimmu Borgir, Bingfoss, Sorumsand.

156. & 157. Nattefrost and Peter Beste, Oslo.

Ephemera: (courtesy Metalion/Slayer Magazine)

1. Euronymous and Grishnackh

2. Drawing by Dead from letter to Metalion

3. Mayhem/Cadaver gig flyer ca. 1987

4. & 5 Photographs from Slayer Magazine archive

6. Dead Tribute from Slayer Magazine issue #9

7. Letter from Euronymous about death of Dead

8. & 9. Photographs from Slayer Magazine archive

10. & 11. Select Slayer Magazine covers

12. & 13. Mayhem interview from Slayer Magazine #10

14. Immortal interview from Slayer Magazine #11

15. & 16. Emperor interview from Slayer Magazine #10

17. & 18. Interview with Varg Vikernes from Slayer Magazine #10

19. Helvete mail-order catalogue front cover

20. Helvete newsletter

21. & 22. Courtesy of Bergen's Tidende archive

23. & 24. Courtesy of Kerrang Magazine

25. De Mysteriis Dom Euronymous, Slayer Magazine #10

Det här är en Klosterkyrka ~~som~~ i transylvanien, som jag ritade av från ett foto (ganska litet förresten), och vi har fått en ~~ko~~ sharp-kopierings apparat. Och PS.- Mayhemic Slaughter och Black Power (Polen) -ska kanske slås i hop och det kan hända att vi trycker den tidningen då.

och tack för det Finska vykortet.

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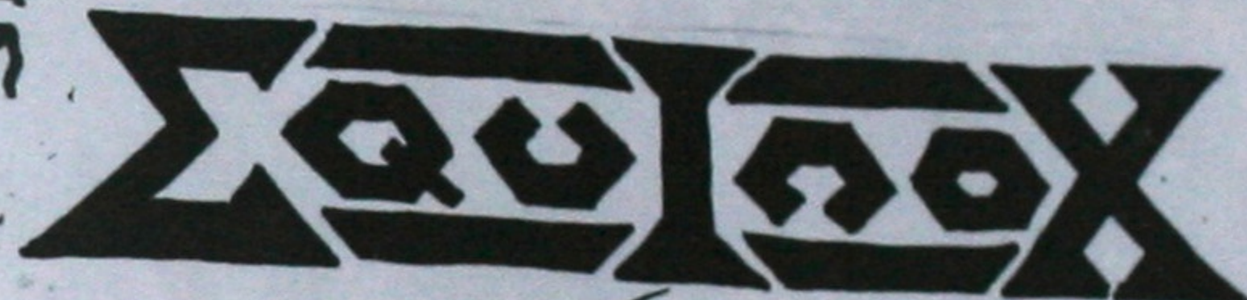
S. BORG



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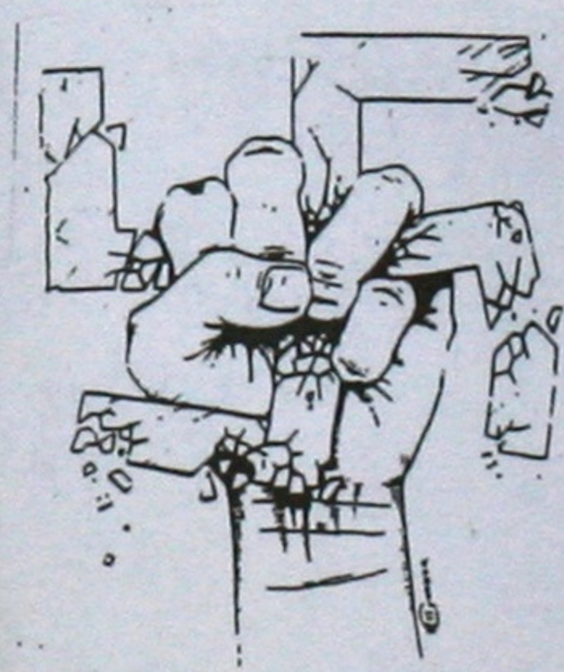
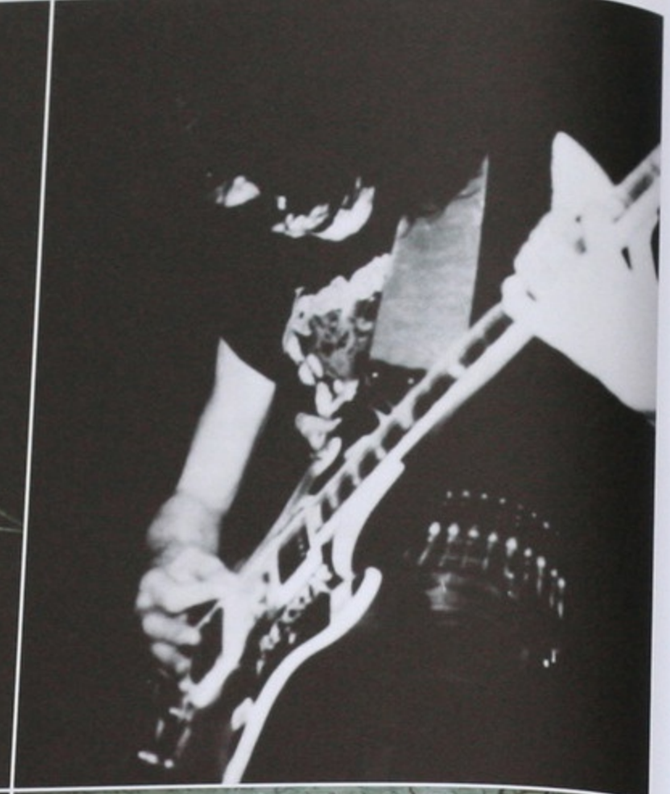
MUCH HATE

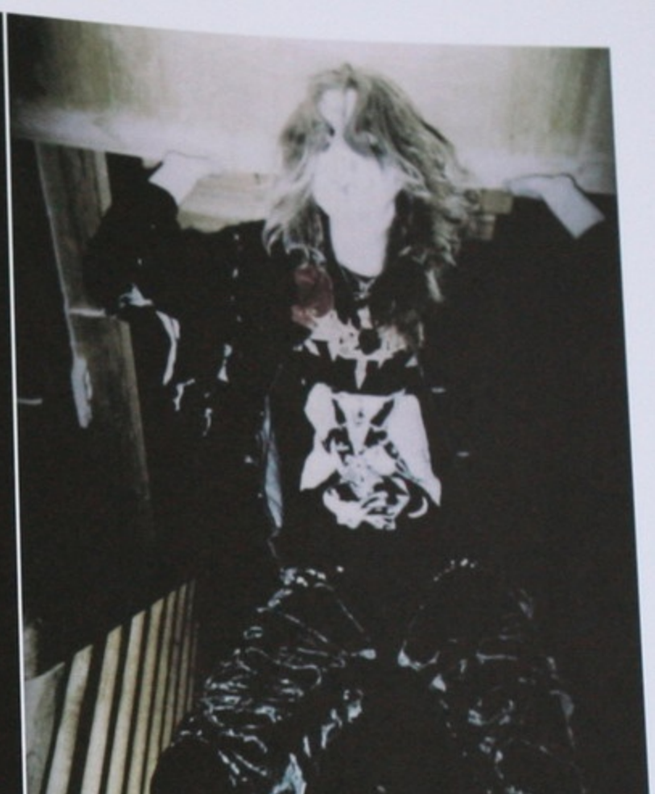
ALG AVTING

death metal



THE TIME HAS COME!





AVERSION
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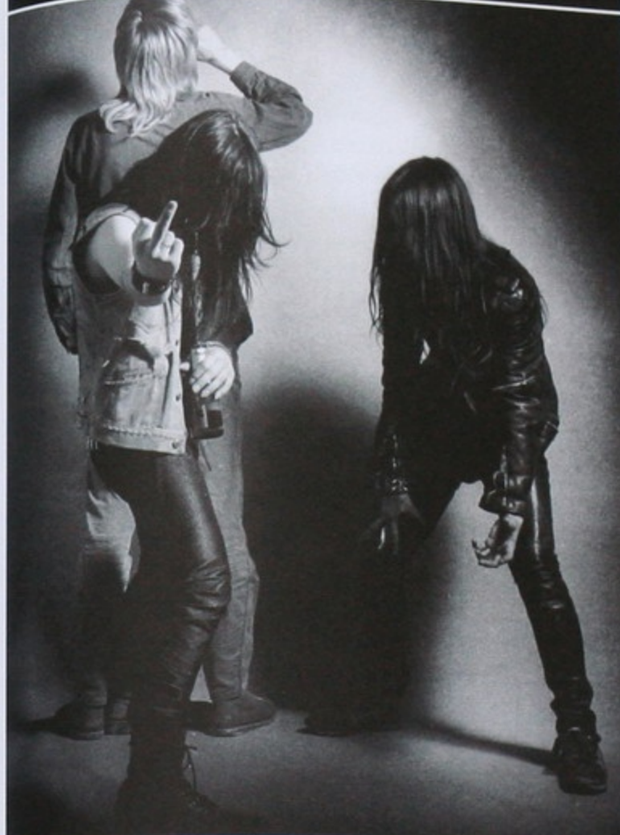
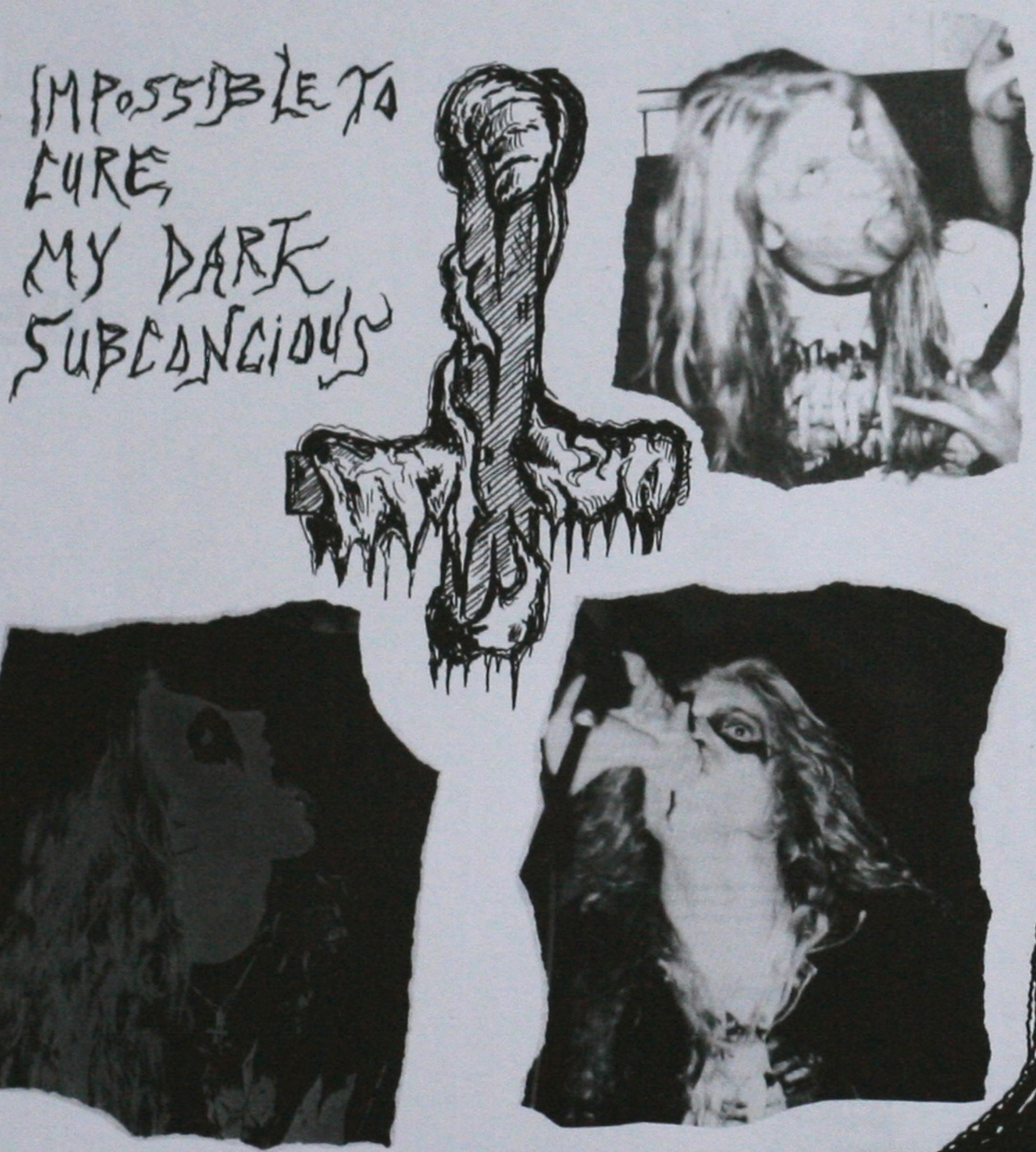


Dead†

April '91, one of the best Black Metal singers decides to end his earthly life.....Dead is gone, Dead is home.....We hail his memory and his soul will forever live on among the true ones.....HAIL DEAD†



AVE.

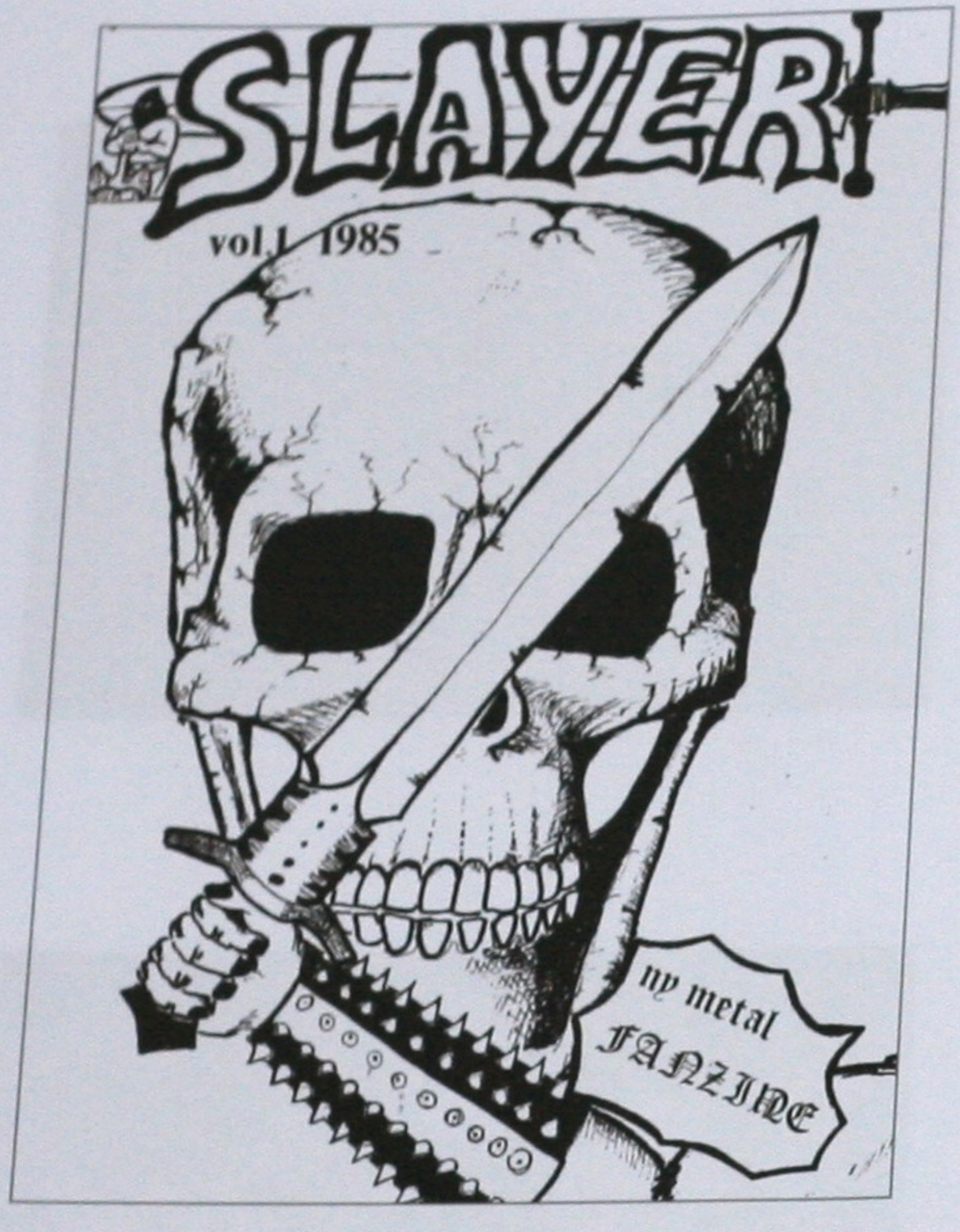
Thanks for the letter! Yez, Goateye is stone dead! He blew his brains out with a shotgun after cutting open all his veins on his wrists and his throat! Brutal as the devil! Well, the reason for doing this was that he lived only for the old EVIL black metal scene, and its lifestyle with rivets, chains, crosses, black clothes and hell. Today all "death" metal bands have normal clothing and jogging pants and look as ordinary as they can, and the same goes for the audience who are nothing but trendy little kids with jogging pants and skateboards! When he discovered that only (with a few exceptions) trendy children listened to us and came to concerts, and that all he stood for with the old evil scene was laid to waste by kids and hardcore-moral-political-idiots; he decided to die. I have declared WAR on the trendy children and FALSE "death" metal bands! Normal people should FEAR death metal! They will DIE! But I must add that it was interesting to be able to study (half) a human brain and rigor mortis. When I found him I naturally got my camera and took CLOSE-ups of the corpse from different angles, and me and Hellhammer found 2 large pieces of the cranium that we have hung in neck chains. The pictures will be used on the Mayhem album. We will NOT disband! No way in hell! We believe a curse has been laid upon Mayhem because EVERYTHING goes to hell, but I will NEVER give up! No, we will not attend to his funeral because Dead would have HATED that. + it is expensive and he will not notice it much anyway. His mother told us that we have to be there but I don`t give a fuck, I´m not a fucking therapist. I`m counting on that our bass player will be there, but that is because he is a sentimental wimp- fucker who didn`t even have the guts to see the BLOOD. We will probably be having a new bass player soon. By the time you are reading this you will probably have met him and you will understand my meaning. He has nothing to do with DEATH metal anymore. He walks around in extremely normal clothes and is soon to be a father (vomit), he only spends time with his fucking bitch and doesn`t give a damn about the band.

Well, we must find a new vocalist, but there are other problems as well. We must have a new place to live, and we must have a new rehearsal place. That will be more than enough to be stressed about for the time being. We will (I and Hellhammer) open up an evil record shop in Oslo soon! We actually only want to sell black metal and EVIL death metal, but it is unfortunately impossible to earn enough money on that. So to begin with we will sell everything that falls under "metal", including heavy and so on, this will get us started and as time goes by we will remove title after title, and in that way we will work our way towards the evil goal. I will also try to sell stuff that is connected to the death/black metal way of life, black hooded robes, crosses, ammo belts, rivets, black candles, pentagrams, etc etc. In addition to all this we will run a postal order service in the Nordic countries, so we need all the support we can get! By the way, I am now able to sell Morbid Angel boot-legs- "Abominations Of Desolation" if someone is interested! SEK 150, - including postage!

Concerning the money you mentioned in your last letter to the goat, (for Merciless), just take the time you need. But we ARE very broke… We will release the live- tape from Leipzig with the 2 CBR tracks on a colour sleeve in memory of the goat! Do you think it is possible to sell some in Sweden?

Ok, to WAR against the trendy people! May we be EVIL again! Join us!
Write soon!

P.S. Enclosed is a small piece of the cranium (ear? nose? temple?) and two of the bullets from the lead that blew it! Enjoy!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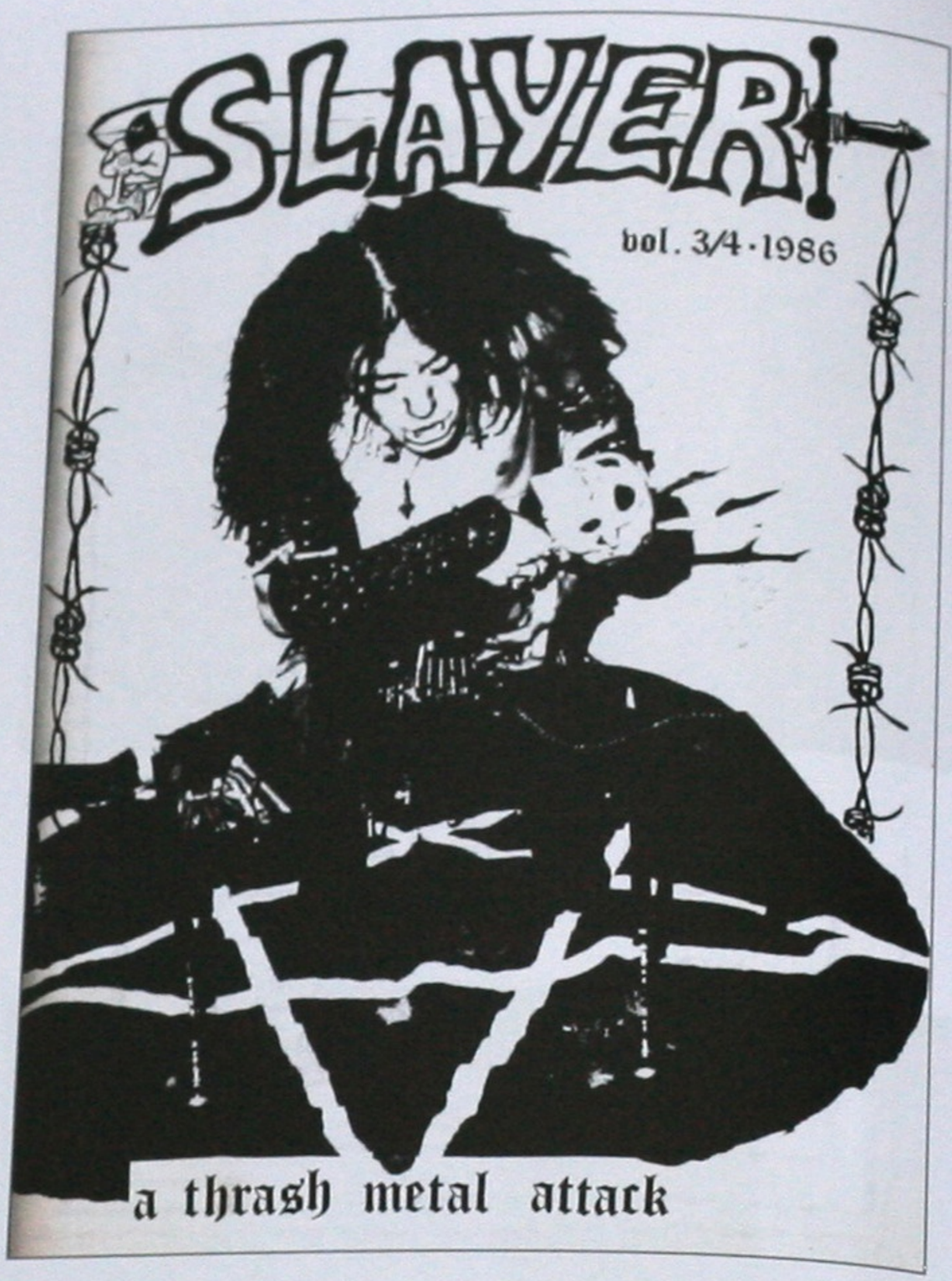
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ALTERNATIVE DEATH MENTAL 'ZINE
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PAST PRESENT FOREVER

MAYHEM

Well, words are really not enough to describe one of the better Black Death Metal bands of today.....MAYHEM have been around for ages and they are taking influences from the earlier Death Metal stuff and they are certainly not affected of the trends of today..... Well, it is kinda strange, but this is the first interview I done with MAYHEM. Dead (D.) and Euronymous (E.) did their best to answer my questions.....Here we go, HEY HO.

Do you think we can expect a new lp from you guys during 1991? (E.) - "Yeah, we are now working hard on new trax for the next lp, and at this moment we need about 3½ more before we have the 8 trax which are necessary. This time it won't be more delayed, if not something extreme happens, like if Hellhammer (drums) disappears again, Dead cuts himself too much on a gig, or I lose my passport in Albania or something...."

About your lp, will it be a concept lp dealing with this book "DE MYSTERIIS DOM SATHANAS" only?

(D.) - "No, it won't be a concept lp. Only one song on it will have to do about the book. But to explain a bit closer about that particular song would be weird 'coz we don't have that song.....We had it, but we dropped it 'coz it wasn't enough evil and it didn't fit. So we saved it to be the last one we'll do before we'll have all material for that lp. As for the book itself, I must find it before some wimpy mainstream jerk will do that. I think I'll have an expedition on my own around the world to find it. It's so dark, darker than death."

Since you (Euronymous) have a certain political view, would you ever to concider to write about that in some lyrics?

- "No, that will never happen. Even though I'm active in the most extreme communist party here (Albania inspirations), I leave to the Punks to write about that in the the lyrics. Nowadays tons of bands are writing "social awareness" lyrics, and they still dare to call it Death Metal. BULLSHIT! I play in a Death Metal band, or maybe you should call it Black Metal, and the most important thing then is Death! Bands who claim to play Death Metal and are not into Death itself, are fakes, and can start to play Punk instead. It's a big trend today to look totally normal with these goddamn jogging suits and sing about "important matters", and call it Death Metal. These people can die, they have betrayed the scene. Death Metal is for brutal people who are capable of killing, it's not for idiotic children who want to have a funny hobby after school. I'll write more about this later. I'll just end up saying that even if I'm personally very much into studying the great works of Mao, Stalin and so on, I think the band is much more important, and Death and Black Metal is my life."

For a long time the band didn't have a reh. place, what did you do during this time?

(D.) - "Good question (snällt va?).....After that we couldn't be at old VOMIT's place anymore we had for a very short time our own place (2 weeks or so) before they cut off the electricity and later on tore down the whole place....By then Hellhammer had joined the band. What we did then was to find somewhere to live (well, some things go before reh. place). We could stay for some month mostly at each place and those have been at friends, half broken down houses, forests and camping places etc.....But luckily it's much better now, even if we can't stay here so much longer. For really a long time we were out of any place to rehearse at all and what we could do then for the band was not much else than replying on the mail."

How much material have you written which you have thrown away? How many songs do you have now?

(E.) - "Probably 50-75% of all the riffs I make will be thrown away sooner or later, because after a while it is not good enough. I don't want to make any mainstream music, so each riff must be something special, and then it takes very long time to make the music. We have five new songs now ("Funeral Fog", "Buried By Time And Dust", "The Freezing Moon", "Pagan Fears" and one new without any lyrics), but if you're thinking about the total number of songs which we have and will play live, it's nine songs + this new one which we will not play live before some time."

In a long time we didn't have any releases from MAYHEM, do you think people will forget you?

(D.) - "I can't say much else than that I agree. Many have written and told they thought we broke up years ago. This will probably be heard on the lp 'coz of the long delay and two new members of four. The two tracks on for theC.B.R. comp. lp don't sound like it once did on "deathcrush". But "Deathcrush" didn't sound like "Pure Fuckin' Armageddon" either. By the way, i think "P.F.A." was more brutal than "D.C.".

At certain times it seems like the band is living on the edge of starvation. How long can you live the life you do?

(E.) - "It's True that we've been through some hard times, generally we have very little food, but we can eat at least some bread each day. And sometimes we just don't have anything at all, and must go out to steal food to survive, these periods fortunately don't last more than a couple of weeks. It's very frustrating to live like this, it's been like this for a couple of years now. I don't know how long we can keep it going, it better change soon, or we might get some line-up problems again. I now hope the record label will help, in the last month I have been able to buy some food because of the label, and that's great. When we get some more records out, it will be better, especially when the MAYHEM lp comes....."

Euronymous, what do you think about the current situation in Eastern Europe? Do you think it is good what happens??

(E.) - "The question is a bit difficult, because there are two answers. All the revelutions you have seen in E.E. are just as they could be taken from MARX/LENIN/MAO, and the party I'm is totally supporting it, because communism means total freedom, and that it should be the people who decide things, not the goverment or the capitalists. But on the other hand, I'm personally very facinated by countries like Albania, North Korea or Kampuchea, which have been running a very hard line and which have been closed for the rest of the world. I really regret that I didn't get the chance to go to Romania while it was like in the old days, but at least I'll be going to Albania soon. OK, I didn't think Romania was a very good place for people to live in, but there were other reasons for that than Ceausescu, you see, the main reasons for the problems in Eastern Europe have been their big foreign debt and alot of corruption. Romania owed lot's of money to other countries, and Ceausescu decided to get rid of this debt quickly. So he shipped everything the country produced away and in a couple of years he would actually have got rid of that foreign debt and Romania would have been a very rich country. He could of course have avoided building himself a palace to himself, but that's the same the big capitalists do over here, and they have also got rich by exploiting people. Ceausescu was a very popular person before, also here in the West, and I still concider him as a comrade."

Why do you think so many bands are trying to copy NAPALM DEATH, CARCASS, MORBID ANGEL or DEATH? Aren't people creative anymore?

(E.) - "No, creativity disappeared in the middle of the 80s. I think 95% of the bands of today are worthless shit, there are just a very few who manage to capture the brutality and EVIL which the ancient bands like SODOM, DESTRUCTION, BATHORY, POSSESSED, VENOM, HELLHAMMER/CELTIC FROST and so on had. It's very important that the music is filled with dark moods and that the music SPELLS of destruction, but no bands manage to do that. (Well....ED) But instead they suddenly occur in the scene and rip off another band like ND, which has made something original. Take a band like DEICIDE. They play so incredible standard, their music is really meant for all the idiot children who started to listen to MORBID ANGEL last year, before that they were only listening to METALLICA after "Master Of Puppets". The last NAPALM DEATH lp is also a part of this extremely boring mainstream which people dare to call Death Metal. I just can't stand this music at all. Standard music for stanadard people. I think f.ex. MERCILESS (Sweden of course) play much more brutal than most of the so called Death Metal bands today. MERCILESS really play music which feels like a jackhammer in the brain. I think the main problem is that Death Metal is now commonly available and accepted, the underground is dead. In the ancient days, it was extremely unpopular and extreme to play in a band like MAYHEM, most people hated us, and each time a new lp came out, it was something so raw and evil that you were freezing on your back, and you really got a kick from listening to it. Now Death Metal is commercial, and bands like CADAVER have even played gigs for their parents. This is not good. This does NOT help the underground, it's killing it. Real DEATH METAL should be something normal people are afraid of, not something mothers can listen to. Ask any 12 year old idiot on the street which bands he or she listens to, and the answer will probably be GUNS & ROSES, METALLICA, NAPALM DEATH and MORBID ANGEL. It's all a big boring trend for idiots, and unfortunately all these idiots always start to play in bands or make a zine. When bands like MASTER'S HAMMER, ROTTING CHRIST or MERCILESS makes demo's/records, I'm happy because they bear the spirit from the ancient days when Death Metal was something evil. And I refuse to have anything to do with all the mainstream trendies is the scene today, if I had played in a band like NAPALM DEATH I would have been so angry that I would have split up the band immediately as a protest. Death Metal should not be played on MTV or be on TOP 10, because that is killing the scene. If this ever happens to MAYHEM, if we become a trend band (which is very unlikely to happen), then I'll stop playing. That's a promise. I don't want to see MAYHEM records in supermarkets in USA like you can do with ND and MORBID ANGEL."

You obviously don't like so much Hardcore, does that also include the people who plays it, or is it the music you dislike only?

(D.) - "I don't listen to Hardcore. And I don't like the people. I don't hate Hardcore itself but what it later became when all those 'attitudes' which seemed to include bermuda shorts, baseball caps and so fuckin' on. I think it was trend and I hated it till those vegeterians switched to make something else fashionable instead. Which was the same much crap of course, but then I didn't hate Hardcore anymore...."

Now something about your label, what do you listen to when you decide to sign a band?

(E.) - "I just have to like them alot. If I like them, it means that they are not one of the mainstream idiot bands, and that is enough or me. If the bands look like old SARCOFAGO/HELLHAMMER, it is the best of course, but I give the bands total freedom concerning everything. I generally hate bands who wear light clothes and jogging suits and shit like that, but even if a band looks totally boring, I'll sign them if they make really good music. MERCILESS f.ex., they don't exactly look brutal, but I just LOVE their music so much. If I had to choose between signing them and MORBID ANGEL, I'd sign MERCILESS without delaying a second. Also I love Satanic bands, but I don't care if they sing about eating carrots if the music is great."

What kind of deals do you give the bands?

(E.) - "We pay all the recording and pressing costs, and then we split the profit 50/50 with the band. That's the only fair way of doing it."

Do you have any written contracts and so on?

(E.) - "Yeah, we always have written contracts. There are two things which are good when we do it that way, firstly both sides will know exactly what they can expect of the other, so no misunderstandings can occour. In the contract it will be written how much they get, when they get it and so on, it's the best for the band. Secondly it will be written that we have total copyright and ownership of all recorded material, cover and master tapes. This is of course not to prevent the band using this material for themselves, but if they get signed by some capitalist label some day, the label will of course try to get the rights for themselves so they can suck more money out of it. And it's this which we will prevent. After we released the MERCILESS lp, MERCILESS were contacted by ACTIVE RECORDS (Who have released CANDLEMASS, ATHEIST etc), who wanted to buy the rights. If they had done that, we wouldn't have been able to sell anything at all, and we'd lose tons of money and maybe we couldn't have continued the label. Because we had made the contract, ACTIVE had to contact us instead, and we refused of course, even though they offered us a lot of money. I think we should get about $30000, but we told them to Fuck Off. On the contract with MERCILESS we hadn't thought about getting the rights for the cover, and this has now resulted in that CBR (The label MERCILESS signed to now) has made t-shirts with the cover, and we can't do anything about it. We always learn from the faults we do, and we'll not repeat that on the next record. So the contract is not for controlling the band, it's for avoiding being ripped off by money hungry labels."

DEMYSTERIIS

How many copies do you reckon to sell of each release?
(E.) - "It's a bit hard to say, because we have only released one record which has not been on the market for a very long time. I'm sure about selling somewhere between 4-6000 records, but I hope for 10000!

In how many countries do you have distribution?
(E.) - "So far we have been concentrating on Europe, we've sold quite a lot in France, Germany and Greece, and Sweden of course. I've also sent some records to Japan, 60-70 I think, and a few to Australia. But lately I have started to send some packages to South and Central America as well, and will continue with that and expand into North America soon. I have contacts in about 55 countries now, but not all of them are possible to send records to. Like f.ex. Eastern Europe, USSR, and the poorest countries of Asia/South America, because the records are extremely expensive for them, even if I give them the cheapest price possible. It's realistic to think that I'll be selling records to about 45 countries, and more later."

You have produced the MORTUM ep "Slow Death", is this something you will do again? Producing etc....?
(E.) - "I don't know, if someone wants me to help, I'll of course help as good as I can, but I'm not a good producer as I haven't been much in the studio myself. But there is one thing I'm aware of which proffessional producers are not, and that is that it is not enough to give the band clear and good sound, you must also put forward the identity of the band so they don't sound like all the other bands. This really lacks on all the new records today, just listen to MORGOTH, OBITUARY and so on, all the producer has managed to do is to rip off DEATH and make a standard sound. It's important to get a totally special sound like the first albums of SEPULTURA, BATHORY, DESTRUCTION, SODOM, POSSESSED, CARCASS, SARCOFAGO etc. had, it sounds much more brutal that way. Listen to SODOM or SEPULTURA now, one thing is that their music stinks, but the sound is weak and polished, I think it sounds shit."

Are you still planning to record your lp in FRANCE? Wouldn't it be easier and cheaper to record it in SWEDEN or NORWAY?
(D.) - "No, we won't (record it in FRANCE). According to the delay of more than two years many plans for recording as well as touring have screwed. When we had the idea of going to that studio in France it was 'cos we'd heard they got some promotion from somewhere and it would be almost free to record anything there, that was why. Now we just hope we will make it with "KELLEM", the dude who engineered for CADAVER, as the producer. It will probably be in Norway."

Have you been in contact with our friend Marcin lately?
(E.) - "This is very irritating, because we have just heard that he has moved to Chicago! How he managed to do that is a mistery, but our revenge will hit him there as well. Unfortunately the poison we gave him wasn't enough to kill him, but I won't rest before he is dead. Comming to America was his dream, and we hate that he probably is happy now. But we also know that the poison has caused him PAIN and that he suffers a lot from it, and in the end he'll also probably get cancer if we don't kill him before that. He's going to die."

Dead, what did you think of MAYHEM before you joined? Do you think you have changed the musical direction of MAYHEM? And lyrics??
(D.) - "When I heard "Pure Fuckin' Armageddon" it's no bullshit that I thought it was the most brutal I've heard, and I think it still is. You know that at that time Necro's lyrics were Black Metal. It's not the same on "Deathcrush", and then it wasn't only Necro who wrote the lyrics. The "Deathcrush" lyrics aren't bad at all but they are later what become gore and trendy. I'm now writing what I think is Black Metal from my view. But I must say that I think my lyrics are different from eachother. So far I've been the one to write the new lyrics, except for some we dropped. I hope this will change, but we have some problems to cooperate. Necro + me will do a better try to work something out in the future. It must be BLACK METAL! I think everything has drifted away from what it once was, or should be. After VENOM's "At War With Satan" the scene died and the trends, clone bands and mainstreams appeared instead. Everything comes from our Allmighty father VENOM so no one can say their influences come from something else. Even if they think they are something original by wearing 'normal' clothes and succeed in looking 100% boring. Wimps shall die and only VENOM was real. That was the scene! And that is what I try to pick up in lyrics, what I think Black Metal was."

As we know, Death Metal is the new trend, but do you think it will fade away like crossover and grindcore once did?
(E.) - "All trends will sooner or later die, and I will welcome the death of the trendy "Death" Metal people who are just fakes in my opinion. I think and hope that in one year, only the true people will be left and the others have gone back to disco or whatever they listened to before they "discovered" MORBID ANGEL. I'd like to see a scene where the music is something gruesome and evil that normal people fear, and where the people in the scene all look like HELLHAMMER or old SARCOFAGO, spikes and chains rule! The scene must also be out of reach for normal idiots, because I think it only should be for extreme people. If someone thinks this is stupid and that the scene should be openminded, have various attitudes etc. etc., then he is one of the persons I don't want to see at our gigs. I don't mind if most of the idiots in the scene hates me and think I look stupid with corpsepaint, black clothes and spikes, because MAYHEM is not for them. My parents don't like MAYHEM, but I think this is how it should be. Just the same - it's not the idea that every idiot shall like us either. If all idiots in the scene, or if my parents liked us, then something would be wrong. SORE THROAT and EMT are right - the scene is dead. I'd just like to save the rest of it and create a new one with only brutal people. Everyone else - FUCK OFF. Our music is just as much for you as for my parents."

Do you like the Norwegian bands? Do you think the Norwegian bands are a bit more original?
(E.) - "I like BALVAZ, CADAVER, DARKTHRONE and IMMORTAL (Ex AMPUTATION). .. THY ABHORRENT is also ok. By the way, watch out for a possible lp of IMMORTAL on DSP. If you want to listen to bands that are really original, then listen to f.ex. ROTTING CHRIST! Their music is so DARK, so BRUTAL! ARGH!"

What will be the ultimate goal for MAYHEM....What is what you think you will manage to do during your carreer?
(E.) - "I don't know if we have any ultimate goal, for me it would be perhaps to play live in Albania, North Korea, Laos, Vitnam or Kampuchea. But the other guys may have other ideas about this. I'd also be happy if we could continue to release records without too much problems, and manage to make a living out of that + the label without having to sell records to the mainstream people, this lowlife should not have any access to Death Metal."

Finally, do you know what the ex members of MAYHEM are up to now?
(E.) - "Yeah, we have more or less contact with all of them, but some of them live their own lifes and we see them only rarely. This especially goes for Manheim and Messiah. Manheim is married with an idiot chick and is working in an insurrance copy. He has become a totally normal person. Messiah is only into Hardcore as far as I know, and he has some strange Hardcore band. (WITHIN' RANGE, 2 lp's out, ED) I don't even know where he lives now, but sooner or later he will turn up again. Yesterday I got the new IMPOSTOR demo where he does the vocals, so he still lives. The VOMIT guys are playing in a band called BØRRE OG BLØDERNE which is some kind of strange punk, I haven't seen them for quite some time either. But Maniac has been in regular contact with us, he was here some weeks ago, he's still the same old dude."

DOM.SATHANAS

Demonaz, formerly IMMORTAL was forced to stop playing guitar due to a horrifying hand-injury. Thus he was forced to leave the frozen winterdemons....But he is now in the band DEMONAZ (??) where he plays synth (!) However, this will be a proper band with guitars and everything so it might be cool. But to get to the point, this was the last IMMORTAL interview Demonaz did for IMMORTAL. IMMORTAL is heading towards new adventures with new line-up. But anyway, DEMONAZ didn't seem to talkative during this last interview, we are however very impressed by our questions. (As always)

How's the weather today?
"The wind blows harder now and I can feel the Winter coming our way."
We all know that your tour was cancelled due to your arm infection. Was it frozen or what?
"No, it was not cancelled because of my arm infection, it was frozen because of your arm infection." (??? Did it freeze a bit of your brain as well? ED)
When you listen to the IMMORTAL albums in retrospect, which album/song chills you most?
"It's the first recording of "Unholy forces of Evil" on our 7". (Yeah, with that awesome scream! ED) That night there was a curse because after we recorded the track a great Winterstorm changed the weather into a true Winter. Oh fuck (!) it was so cold that we arranged a photo session later that night. It was so cold that it took hours to get undressed, but it was no big deal really. (I'm still concerned about your brain - ED)
What would the ultimate stage who be like if you had unlimited recourses?
" You wouldn't believe me if I told you."
What's your view on CD versus vinyl?
"I think vinyl is the coldest and that also goes for the records I bought when vinyl was the only thing to get hold of. CD's lack emotion and it's not such a pleasure to put it on. I think that the best bands died together when CD production started, so a great time is gone."
What's the best lyric inspiration except your mind? Frozen car windows in the morning?
"My own frosted mind in the morning mist. I find great inspiration in listening to Abbath's riffs and great compositions. Frozen car windows in the morning is better than overheated useless cars that never starts."
When you were kids, did you parents force you to make evil snowmen?
"No, actually I started to make them myself. But that was before the whisky was invented and things started to happen."
In Norway we have a nice weather girl called Siri M. Kvalvig. Do you fancy the way she presents the Winter or do you prefer the colder Kristen Gislefoss?
"I prefer the colder Kristen Gislefoss and the true NRK channel. I am indeed a true worshipper of the originators and spit on the competes. In my eyes there is no place for a nr. 2."
Rumours have it that you and Abbath used to drink whisky in the forest during mid Winters to get inspired in the early days, any comments?
"Yezzzz, this is true and it will not be the last time."
Do you see alcohol as an important issue in life?
"I find music most important, but alcohol is great entertainment too."
What is the ultimate merchandise item?
"The ultimate collectors IMMORTAL item is the spike clubs we used on the back cover of the "*Diabolical...*" album. And Abbath's spike boots..."
What is that you hate about the Summer?
"The Summer has nothing to do with music."
IMMORTAL has always put pictures of themselves on the album covers, any defrosted idea for a change in that or what?
"Drawings and paintings are for fantasy people! (NO!! IT IS FOR METAL PEOPLE!! ED) We are for real and present ourselves along with the album."
You don't actually have a dark sound, rather a truly aggressive one. How come the amalgan in your teeth freezes when you put on an IMMORTAL record?
"Because our music is cold and your teeth is rotten."
All right! Any stormblown words at the Gate of Blashyrk?
"Into fame and torture ride. Fasten your frost belts."

DEMONAZ WITH CORPSE PAINT ANNO '91

These were the last words by the frozen Winter demon himself, Demonaz!

THE GATE OF BLASHYRK IS HEREBY CLOSED!

Ali Gator with assistance from Metalion

EMPEROR

Well, as most of you must have witnessed that the drummer of EMPEROR (Baard Faust) is now facing 14 years in jail for committing a murder at Lillehammer in '92! (He did not get a gold medal ...) we have an old interview with him conducted when he was a free man. We also have a newer one which you will find after this. There was some questions I left out in the interview here, but here we go.....

In Norway there really are a great deal of killer bands, but don't you think it is kind of weird how most of them use the same image, but are musically different?

"Well, the fact is that it's not that many bands in Norway as people get the impression of. We only have about 4 Black Metal bands here (BURZUM, MAYHEM, DARKTHRONE & EMPEROR) so I can't really understand why people yell about this big Black Metal trend in Norway. But I think there are way more Black Metal fans here in Norway, and i think that has something to do with EURONYMOUS's shop which I worked in. The people who bought their music there got pretty influenced by the shop. They understood there was more than just NAPALM DEATH and ENTOMBED. But yes, these 4 bands have pretty much in common when it comes to image (as you call it), but I really don't think it's so strange, because we belong to the inner circle of the Norwegian Black Metal scene and we often talk and discuss our views. So I guess we more or less have the same opinion (with some exceptions of course). The reason why these bands are musically different are probably because of individualism and that we think for our selves. We aren't so influenced by bands from other countries. We get the inspiration from other Norwegian bands mostly, and develop a totally new style of Black Metal!"

You played in the cult legend THORNS as well, why did this band break up and why did you decide to join EMPEROR?,

"THORNS broke up due to many reasons. Mainly we didn't have the same ideas about how the band should have been and on the other side SNORRE joined MAYHEM so it was clear that THORNS would break up sooner or later. I joined EMPEROR three weeks before THORNS broke up because I thought their demo "Wrath Of The Tyrant" was so incredible great and evil. I looked upon it as an honour to be a member of that band. Back then I decided to concentrate equally on both bands. But three weeks later THORNS were history so suddenly EMPEROR was my only band. And by the way, MARIUS(Who did the vocal job in THORNS) also played in another band - ARCTURUS. So no one really suffered from the split up."

There seems to be a war between certain of the bands in Finland and the bands in Norway.....What do you feel about all this?

"Yes, it seems like some of the Finnish dudes accuse Norway for being a trendy Black Metal country. As I mentioned earlier there are only about 4 Black Metal bands here in Norway and Finland has about 50 of, so who are they to judge Norway as a trend country? It also has something to do with this disagreement between Count Grishnackh of BURZUM and this Mika guy from IMPALED NAZARENE, but I really don't know the story so I shouldn't say so much about it.....Hmmmmm, the last time we rehearsed with EMPEROR, (I slept over at Samoth's place as I usually do when we rehearse) and in the middle of the night some drunk Finnish Black Metal freaks called him up and yelled over the phone. These Finnish dudes ended the call with a children's song sung over the phone.....Can you believe it? Is this the way the Finnish people show their hate towards Norway? If it is, I can't take them seriously anymore. They are out of arguments and instead they terrorise us on the phone with children's songs!! Stupid jerks!!!!"

In your eyes what is the definition of Black Metal? Is it right to say you are wrong when you follow the path of Dr. Anton LaVey? And you can not play Black Metal if you do so? So a band like NECROMANTIA would not be Black Metal?????

"My definition of Black Metal is a Metal band with Satanic lyrics (simply). Some people misunderstand Black Metal and think it is the music which decides whether it is Black Metal or not. They believe it is Black Metal as long as the guitars are non down tuned, the vocals are screamy and the production is bad. I shall admit that this is the typical sound of some Black Metal bands. But that doesn't necessary mean it's got to be like this if it is to be Black Metal. Bands like BLASPHEMY, DEATH SS, MAYHEM, MERCYFUL FATE, are all Black Metal bands, and musically they are different as day night and day (well, almost at least). And yes, it is wrong to call bands who follow the path of Anton LaVey for Black Metal. Those who have read the 'Satanic' bible know that Anton LaVey stands for everything that's good in life and the worship of all kinds of pleasures which leads to big gratification for him and the members of the Church of Satan. In the book "Church of Satan" these words are written clearly and are impossible to misunderstand or read between the lines. This has absolutely nothing to do with the classical and original sort of Satanism (whom the Christians presented). Satanism is a religion on the same level as Christianity and LaVey says that his philosophy is anti religion and he also says you have to be an atheist to be a Satanist. I mean, what's the point? He scorns the old traditional way of Satanism. LaVey and his followers hate Christianity because they are so evil while they (the Satanists) are the good ones. He want's to make sure that Satanism gets a good reputation and that it can become something acceptable And this is exactly how it is not meant to be. When people hear the word Satanism they freeze on their backs and they shall be really afraid of the Satanists, who sacrifice children in the name of Satan. The Church of Satan is the complete opposite to this. They are only a family club who wanna make sure that people get the best out of their earthly lives and nothing more than that. About the last question....I don't really think NECROMANTIA label themselves as Black Metal and personally I have never done that, because I think the term Occult/Dark Metal suits them better. They are among my fave bands and each time I listen to I get the impression of something dark and occult. It's not like the feeling you get when you listen to the average Church of Satan band, it is something completely different, something dark, frightening and mystic. Something unknown."

EMPEROR did only release one demo and got signed right away, have you ever thought that things happened to fast?

"Well yes.....things happened a bit fast I think, but not to fast. was no hurry and we had plenty of time during the mLP recording. We also had enough time to consider if we wanted to do it or not. We take it only as a compliment that we got signed after our first demo."

What do you think of the closing down of the "Helvete" shop?

"It certainly was a defeat. I suppose all our enemies had a good time when they heard the news. But I can promise you that we will come back later, stronger than ever. Closing down the shop was a necessity to get the media away from us and there was also other reasons involved which I can not explain here."

Do you understand people who burn churches?

"YES"

Why was Mortils kicked out of the band?

"Well, it was due to personal disagreements within the band and nothing more than that. As far as I know we are still friends...(Not anymore!! ED) Although I haven't met him since we kicked him out ...."

You told me you were into the band DEICIDE, tell me what it is you like about them?

"Well, this is pretty interesting story, because I have always thought that DEICIDE were a bunch of posers and fakes who were playing standard Death Metal just because it was popular, but obviously I was wrong. When they visited Norway in late '92 I had the opportunity to talk with Glen Benton and he was one of the most evil persons I have ever met. He said that he collects souls which he shall lead into perdition and death and you can't do that when you have 20 fans, he said (he was thinking of underground bands). His mission is to make little children commit suicide and music comes in second place. The reason why they play such standard stuff, is because it appeals to more people than a typical underground band would have done and in that way it is easier for him to collect souls. I have always thought that DECIDE's music suck and I still do, but as long as they (and especially Glen) are as evil as they come, I don't mind. But I shall admit that I got impressed when I saw their live here in Oslo. Their sound was extremely heavy and tight. Not like the albums. I guess the moral of this story would be that you shall not judge the dog by it's fur.....or something like that."

Some say that being born is a very painful experience for the foetus, do you also think death is a painful experience?

"Well, I think it depends very much (and I mean very much) on how you die. If you for instance get shot in the back of the head , you won't notice that much. But if you die of hunger, it will be way more painful I think. It also depends very much on if the actual person wants to die or not. If he commits suicide due to depression, problems in the daily life or simply because he has no will to live any longer, then I suppose death will come as a deliverance. If he doesn't want to die, but still knows that he is going to die, it must be very painful (psychologically and eventually physically)

Do you use corpspaint only during photo sessions? And do you feel somewhat different when you use it?

"We only use corpspaint during photo sessions and gigs (of course). It might happen that we use it some other times too, but then it must be something real important, because it is usually a lot of work to paint a good corpspainting (not to forget the horrible job getting it of). When we , under a gig or during a photo session, are using corpspaint, we are usually in a state of mind that makes us feel like we are getting nearer darkness (and maybe even one with darkness). Corpspaint shouldn't be used every day. It should only be used when you feel like some dark event would happen (an extremely bloody gig or fire breathing during a photo session). At such events, I look at myself as one of the creatures of the night.....child of darkness."

Do you think that all humans have something good and evil in them?

"That's a very difficult question to answer. Because no one . knows the mentality of a man and it's impossible to say whether a mass murderer is totally evil or just insane (that's a big difference). But I guess the average man has got more or less equally with good and evil in him. But no one is 100% evil or 100% good. That is just not possible."

Is it possible to turn evil or are you evil from the day you are born?

"Also this question is very difficult to answer, because it depends very much from man to man. But if we are talking about the underground, it seems like many people tries to be as evil as possible ("I'm the most evil etc."). I'm so tired of all those "evil" people. Honestly, they are not more evil than my aunt. I have never said that I'm evil and such things, because I'm not into this just for the sake of being evil. This is what I wanna do, this is my life, so then it's just a trifle whether it's "evil" or not."

Have you heard anything more about the Christian band CRUSH EVIL?

"No, not really. Except from an interview with them in a Christian newspaper weeks ago. It's a scorn to the Norwegian Black Metal scene that CRUSH EVIL still exists, but one day we will get them. But it is impossible to do anything at the moment due to the situation here, but we have plenty of time!" (ED's note: CRUSH EVIL has changed their name, but I still think they have the same concept, the new name is ANTESTOR. If anyone of you would like to write to them , pleas do: ANTESTOR c/o Kjetil Molnes, Box 181, 2051 JESSHEIM, NORWAY

Anyone you would like to send some death threats to? (Not really....)

"as you said; not really, but I could mention that Wild Rags will rereleas our demo "Wrath Of The Tyrant" ? two unreleased tracks (which were recorded at the same time as the miniLP. I also see it an honour to be interviewed by SLAYER MAG. Pleas let number 10 be the ultimate mag Metalion! I'm looking forward to reading it. Death and Destruction....."

kaos, krig og drap.

'Det Som Engang Varg'

In the past we have done several interviews with Varg Vikernes, none of them have been published due to various reasons. Anyway, what we have here is a two piece interview which was made in '94.....I say no more and let Varg speak!

Now there is a new BURZUM CD out called "Hvis Lyset Tar Oss" and then there is one more called "Filosofem", but what will happen after that and how do you see the future releases of BURZUM?

"It depends on the result of the trial. Anyway, I can make albums with electronic music. But to continue with my drums, vocal and guitars recordings I need a sound studio with more advanced equipment than a computer or a four track portable studio. I need freedom or leaves to do it. So the future releases will be BURZUM as it has always been but Metal parts may have to wait, if I get a sentence..... (Which he has, as you all know...ED) The electronic BURZUM music is taking over the albums, like "Hvis Lyset Tar Oss" being 1/3 electronic and "Filosofem" being 1/2 electronic. So maybe all future BURZUM will be electronic. I don't know. I have no plans, I'll take it as it comes. BURZUM is and will always be melancholic, monotonous and transcendental. I don't view rock'n'roll as the roots of my Black Metal. Without doubt German underground techno is the origin of BURZUM music."

Are you able to create music in your current position?

"Only lyrics. I haven't touched an instrument in seven months. When I get transferred to Bergen or released I'll start playing music again...patience."

Many reckon BURZUM as the ultimate Back Metal creation; are you still?

"I've thought about it and in a way I forsake the BURZUM supporters if I stop doing Metal now. So I think BURZUM will always be what it has always been. After all, together with DARKTHRONE and IMMORTAL, BURZUM were the first to do true Norwegian Black Metal and it is our duty to complete the tower of the eye. Swords, axes, spears and hammers are after all metal, more or less, and instruments of war. Yes, BURZUM is the ultimate Black Metal creation, but when I speak of BURZUM I also speak of the most honourable brethren in DARKTHRONE and IMMORTAL. The Norse trinity of kings."

Do you have any thoughts about what happened in Norway in '93?

The awakening of heathendom. I did a lot to light the fire of our past. In spite of what other influential Black Metallers sought for I followed my own path to the glory of Odin. This caused some heavy reactions and almost a state of civil war between the Vikings and Euronymous's feeble 'Satanists'. We all know the result of this quick war. Euronymous is dead 'n ashes buried in Christian soil 'n blessed by 'Gods' inept servants while the police 'n the ludicrous Christians have torn our scene apart with totally ridiculous anti BURZUM propaganda and with ex Euronymous supporting informers giving false testimonies in the Vikings disfavour. '93 was a year of chaos, rivalry, death and most of all survival for the fittest. Left am I with my growing army of Vikings. '94 will be a year of re-organisation of the scattered heathen hordes - Stronger than ever. The anti BURZUM propaganda of the police have been very successful indeed. Everybody believes I brutally murdered the commie rat Euronymous and that I'm the bad guy while Euronymous was just an innocent victim of BURZUM. This is pure fuckin' bullshit and time will tell. In the meanwhile the propaganda bullshit flourishes.I'll crush their lies and spit on'em afterwards. The victory of Vikings is at hand. Odin lives on forever, the one eyed Satan."

Today the scene with you and BURZUM is a bit different, how do you see it? What does BURZUM stand for today?

"The same as always. Total destruction of Christendom in Scandinavia. The scene is different in the way that we no longer use the word Satanism, but instead we use heathendom as a term to identify us with. I think the same but speak more clearly. Equivocative speech have proven only to cause confusion, thus I elucidate my views with clear speech to avoid erroneous interpretations and misconceptions by the foul masses. Heathendom or Satanism, why not say heathendom anyway?"

Do you feel you have still a lot of supporters and gain new ones? Do you support new bands?

"I support all true Norwegians who support me, be them in bands or not, be them long or shorthaired, be them Black Metallers or so called 'normal'. As long as they are true Norwegians with true Norwegian moral and ideology I support them as brethren. It is not music for me, the scene is an army of heathens swinging the hammer of Thorr to crush the skull of 'God' and his effete 'n inept people. I'm very close minded and never listen to any new music, but as war brothers I support 'em. Who I support? Well, you can tell by one thing. Do they hail and praise DARKTHRONE, IMMORTAL and BURZUM? If so they harvest support from BURZUM. Yes indeed, the support for BURZUM is still vast. we gain new ones now more than ever. BURZUM is a tribe growing....."

Do you think more extreme things will happen now?

"The second wave of attack will be more like a wave of heathen moral and ideology to settle in the heads of a vast number of people, but also things will happen. The police propaganda has scared the shit out of most people but hopefully they will realise they need not worry. The biggest punch in our face is the fact that people like Samoth and Bård Faust of EMPEROR actually have talked on everybody, they are informers. Both of them are wittnessing falsely against me giving me two extra church arson charges, some grave desecration and burglary charges. All because they are so fuckin' afraid of the police. They don't get that they don't need to say anything at all. Fuckin' weak children. Half of the arrests have been made just because these clowns couldn't shut up. This lead to distrust and uncertainty in our scene, thus little action is done. There is little point in doing anything when guys like Samoth 'n Faust of EMPEROR turn you in just to save some months in prison for themselves. If people could be all men instead of losers there would be no Christian dust left in Norway. We could have turned the nation heathen within a couple of years.....With hard work - Viking work! Ten true Vikings are better than a million losers like EMPEROR! (Hey, I think their bassist is OK....) By the way, you say extreme things, nothing extreme has happened in Norway. Only plain healthy heathendom that is....."

What is the biggest problem you face now?

"I can't see any major problems. Imprisonment is a bit irritating but no big problem as I can continue with my splendid work anyway....."

What do you think of Voices Of Wonder changing the bass lines on the Mayhem LP? Do you think they really did it or is it something they say?????????

"It's quite amusing really. Truly a compliment to be removed from a Black Metal LP because they think I'm too uncongenial. "Too evil" for MAYHEM....HAH! Fuck wimps. Hopefully they really do it, in that way they prove their fear of Count Grishnackh of BURZUM. If I kiss the mastertape they'll probably wash it with holy water."

Do you think media is to focused on you as a person instead of your music? (Is all promo good promo?)

"They are to busy talking shit about me to mention the music. Most promo is good promo but I'm not interested in promoting me. I prefer promoting my ideology and

BURZUM. This movement is not about me. It's about a union of people faithful to their heathen nature, it's about our ideology. It's about NHUF! (Norwegian Heathen Undemocratic Front, in Norwegian: Norsk Hedensk Udemokratisk Front)"

Do you think you made a brand new style of Black Metal with your first LP?

"With Scandinavian arrogance I say yes, indeed. BURZUM introduced a new vocal and a new way of playing music. Together with IMMORTAL and DARKTHRONE, BURZUM changed the Norse scene completely. From nothing to a strong Black Metal scene (With nothing I mean a handful of ridiculous Death Metal bands) This trinity is the fundament of true Norwegian Black Metal. MAYHEM is unessential as they did nothing, no releases, no rehearsing. Nothing but talk 'n porno films 'n coca cola 'n some more talk. The god of laziness in earthly communist manifestation. I'll boast 'n say the debut album of BURZUM was a mighty scream from a forest unknown. Today the forest's crowded. But also the screams of BURZUM came from an unseen tower beyond the forest on the other side. Today a song is heard from the starlit sky, the crowd will always be one step behind. Alas, as sheep follow the shepherd! HAH! Arrogance and BURZUM! Two sides of the same thing....."

Whatever happened with the deals with Earache and Candlelight? Was it true?

"Yes, there was a deal proposal from Earache. But they withdrew it as BURZUM turned out to be a bit too uncongenial for them, Candlelight didn't mind so I had talks with them, but after the splendid fall of the commie rat and I being charged for the murder BURZUM became too uncongenial for "Them" too. I needed a label with Germanien dignity. A controversial label with guts to touch a band like BURZUM. So I signed to Misanthropy Records."

And what about the bootleg of the first LP?

"To support the labels with rights to print 'n sell BURZUM I won't talk about the bootleggers. I know at least three European bootlegs of BURZUM and one US one. DSEV included. I don't like this but in a way it is nothing but a compliment, a praise of BURZUM. I have heard of an LP version of DSEV and it pisses me off to know I don't have it. So support non but: Misanthropy and Cymophane when it comes to BURZUM releases. Misanthropy have the rights to release the four first albums, and Cymophane the rights to distribute all of BURZUM in Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Finland and Denmark. This is what I know, still Misanthropy Records might have more information concerning this"

Do you fear for your life when you get out of jail?

"We shall all die and I fear it not. In a way we are all dying, for indeed life is a slow death. We grow old, fade away, grow weak. I say let the weak die. My time shall come when I am weak, as with all others. If I am shot in the back, I'm a fool not to foresee that a sniper may lurk in the shadows behind me. If I am stabbed to death with a knife or dagger I am a weaker warrior than my foe. If I am poisoned I am a fool to let an enemy near my food. If a car hit me, I am to unobservant to deserve survival. If I die of disease it is my destiny. Alas, if anybody want me dead let them try, I enjoy a good fight and if they win (which they won't! HAH!) they win, so what? I'll die fighting. Reincarnation in Valhalla awaits. Eternal strife!!"

So right now, don't you listen to any music at all?

"Oh yes, right now I listen to the advance tape of DARKTHRONE's new masterpiece "Transilvanian Hunger". Apart from the most honourable DARKTHRONE I listen to genuine pieces like "Pure Holocaust" of IMMORTAL, VON, "Infernal Overkill" by DESTRUCTION, most of BATHORY, some WHEN, SOFTWARE, VANGELIS, ..IDSKJALF, DAS ICH, GOETHES ERBEN and some other electronic music."

Now I would like to hear what you want to say about the Black Circle.....Your story.....

"My story.....I won't circumambulate the essence you wish me to step into. For once sake I'll try to avoid equivocative transcendental thus deficient elucidation of the essence of our

HELVETE

Katalog nr. 1, november 1992

deathlike silence

HELVETE
Newsletter, February 1993

CHAOS rules.

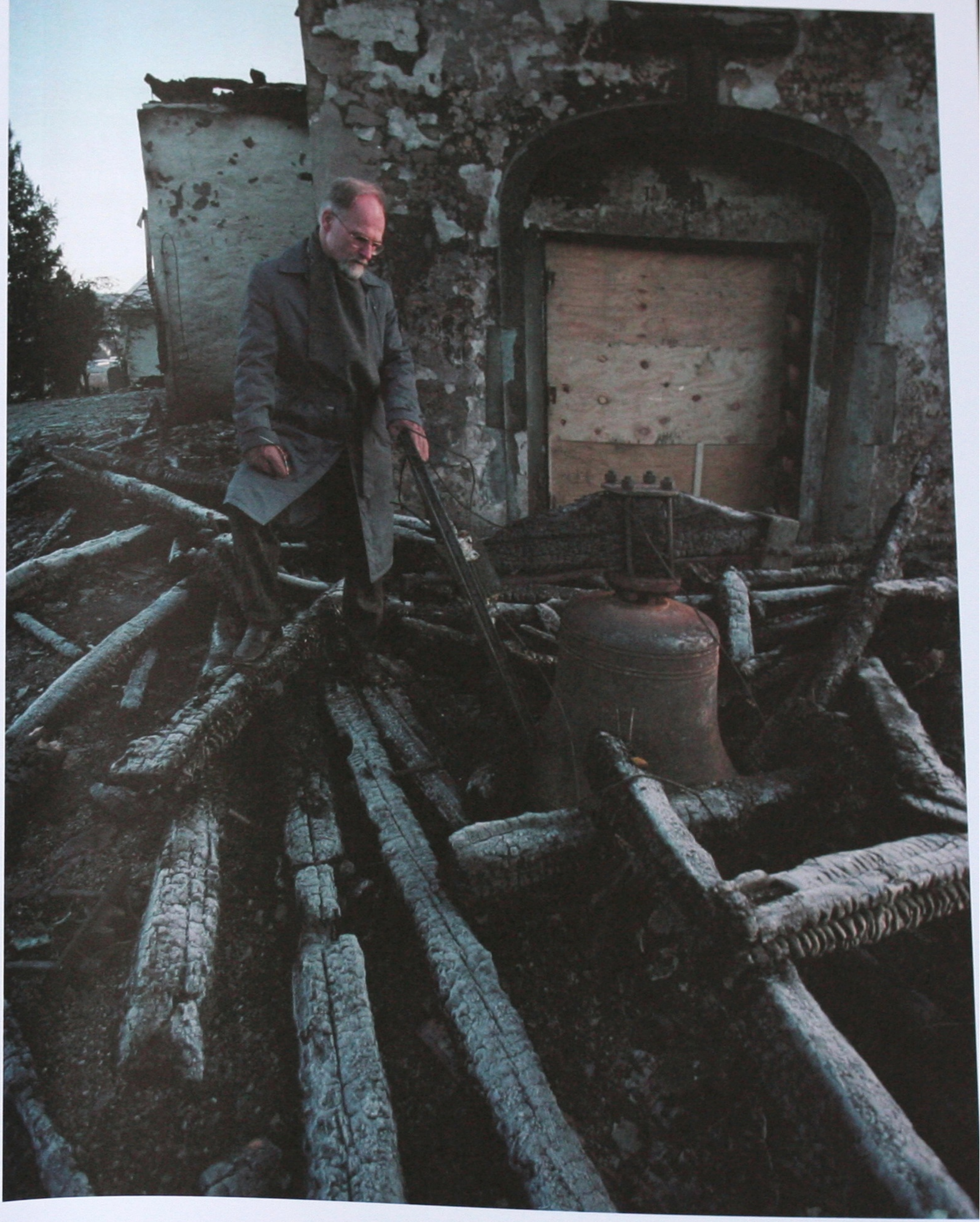
Most people should have noticed the recent attention on black metal, on us and not least on Greven (BURZUM). The situation here in Helvete has been unpleasent lately - Attracting reporters, Christians and undercover cops like flies to a corpse. By necessity we contacted Dagbladet and gave them a "nice" interview, in order to demystify things and make media lose interest in us. And so they did. Now that things has calmed down, it is time for us to inform our customers about the situation.

In the interview, it's stated that the store has been closed down. This was required, or the reporters would never leave us alone. We would have been the center of attention every time something happened and it would be difficult to run a serious business. We have now removed that single concrete and visual operation that the society had on us. This is of course incredibly annoying, but we have absolutely not given up. Mail order and record label is as strong as ever, and one can still order by phone. There is a possibility that we will open up another store in the future, at another location in Oslo. In that case we will go about with a more anonymous approach. All registered customers will be notified.

Anyway - The next couple of months will bring a fucking lot of great music, especially for those of you who like black metal. On the other of this sheet, you'll find a list of what you can expect and when we hope to have them in store.

Greven is in custody with prohibited from receiving mail and having visitors, but will (hopefully) be released in mid February. We here in Helvete are fully convinced that he will not be sentenced, as there's not a trace of evidence that he has done anything whatsoever. And Tor Erling Staff is on the case... The police has done their very best to prevent this. It will be the defeat of the century if Greven is released, and they are doing everything in their power to nail him. The problem for the rest of us, is that the police has started a witch hunt, on everything that has anything to do with black metal - search of premises, interrogations and arrests all the time. A clear sign that they are desperate to get something on us. Therefore, we recommend everyone to take it easy in the coming months and if anyone should have anything to hide from them, do it and do it fast. The police can visit anyone. Our sources says that the police in Norway, Sweden and Denmark cooperates to charter the black metal-network, and that they plan to include Interpol in the investigation. Anyone that has anything to do with black metal, should pull into the shadows and not even think about doing any shit... What we (and Greven in particular) needs, is that the police and media is convinced that this is all about raw music and nothing more.

If there is anyone, after reading the interview in Dagbladet, that believe we have turned into a bunch of boy scouts: Before that happens, HELL FREEZES OVER.



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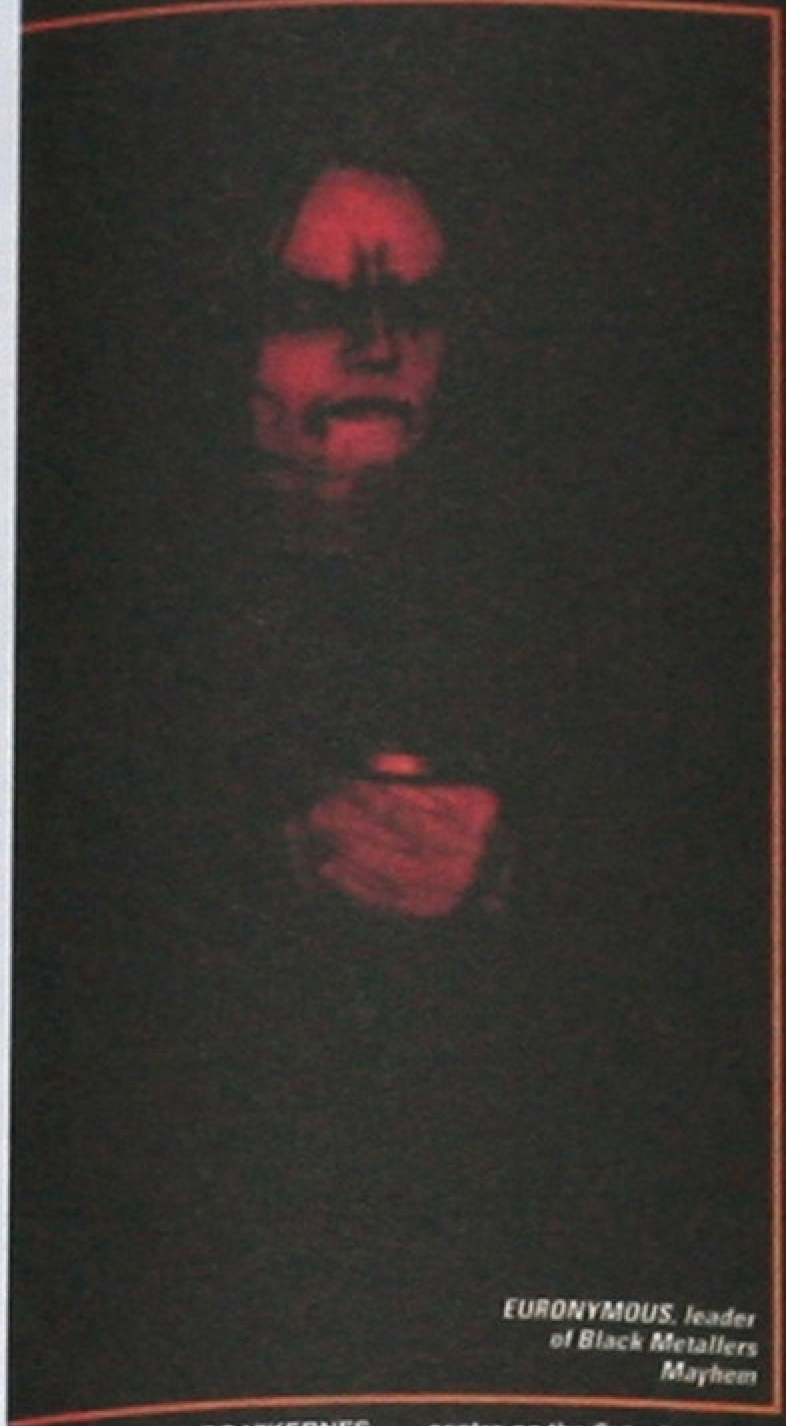


EURONYMOUS, leader of Black Metallers Mayhem

In Norway, the Satanic Terrorists, a sinister group of Neo-Fascist Devil Worshippers, are burning churches to the ground. One of their number, VARG VIKERNES, faces a prison sentence for arson. JASON ARNOPP tells the story of Count Grishnacht...

VARG VIKERNES is a 20-year-old Norwegian male who currently faces a 12-year prison sentence for arson.

Vikernes was seized and charged following a series of fire attacks that have desecrated up to eight churches throughout the country. A fireman died fighting one of the blazes. Police investigations now centre on the Satanic Terrorists, an extreme group of neo-Fascist Devil Worshippers led by Euronymous, a known associate of Vikernes.

Vikernes fronts Black Metal band Burzum under the name Count Grishnacht. Based in Bergen, a large town on the West coast of Norway, Burzum are one of a number of extreme Satanic Metal bands inspired by the hateful imagery and brutal music of Venom and Bathory, the recognised pioneers of Black Metal.

It is in Norway that Black Metal has become a national menace. Vikernes' arrest has revealed a network of bands actively involved in Satanic ritual and vandalism. Vikernes names three Norwegian bands at the centre of the Black Metal underground: Burzum (which translates as 'The Darkness'), Mayhem (who are led by Euronymous) and Darkthrone, plus two American acts, Deicide and the little known Von. Vikernes spells out the latter's name. "V for victory, O for orgasm, N for Nazis".

Deicide frontman Glen Benton is currently Black Metal's most prominent figure. He admits to torturing animals for pleasure, endorses child sacrifice and regularly brands an inverted cross into his forehead, yet for all their Satanic preaching, Benton and Deicide have not taken tangible anti-Christian action. Deicide's albums have now been withdrawn from sale in Norway after distributors Sony Music refused to handle their product. They commented: "We can't support a band that invite to homicide (*sic*), especially in the light of circumstances in Norway".

"I don't care if people die, even within my own circle. I have no feelings left..." – EURONYMOUS

HEAVY METAL'S traditions of dark imagery have fuelled Christian extremist protests for many years in the US. Ozzy Osbourne and Judas Priest have faced court action following allegations that their music inspired teenage suicides. Osbourne's notorious track 'Suicide Solution' was the subject of many lawsuits despite its overtly humorous puns on alcoholism, yet Norway's Black Metal bands openly endorse suicide and murder. When Mayhem's vocalist, the aptly-named Dead, died in suspicious circumstances in the Spring of 1991, Euronymous was rumoured to have photographed the corpse and defiled the body – rumours Euronymous will not deny: "Some of this may be true, and some may not."

Vikernes and the Satanic Terrorists are a genuine lunatic fringe to whom previous boundaries do not apply. The burning church, dramatically pictured on the cover of this issue of Kerrang!, is a symbol of their intent. Writing in a Black Metal fanzine, Darkness, Bard Faust of another Norwegian band, Emperor, states: "The old bands just sang about it – today's bands do it!"

Euronymous claims that he and Vikernes are of equal standing within the Satanic Terrorists' organisation. The organisation has an "inner circle" of 10 members who manipulate and exploit a group of "slaves", who appear to be little more than impressionable Black Metal fans. Vikernes suggests that the total support for the group runs into hundreds of people.

They define their enemies in terms of those who oppose them religiously, and those bands whom they consider unwilling to follow their extreme path. Vikernes simply asks, "Why the hell don't Death Metal bands want to kill people?"

Vikernes is currently free on bail on two counts of arson.

"I've been accused of child abuse, church burnings, some murders, possession of illegal weapons... a lot of things," he states. "They also claim that I have... what shall I say?... pushed others to do things for me. But I am only being charged with arson.

"I don't wish to comment on me being guilty or not," says Vikernes, in his quiet, cold voice. "It wouldn't be too intelligent for me to talk about that. I have a very good lawyer (Tor Erling – unavailable for comment), and that's why I'm out on bail. He's advised me not to talk too much about it."

"I won't be jailed because they can't prove anything. My biggest problem is avoiding being put into a madhouse... That's the real problem. Everything else is no big deal..." – VARG VIKERNES, Count Grishnacht

A BURZUM flyer features a photograph of the remains of a burned-out Church. Vikernes claims it is "a hymn to church burning", although he will not accept it as a tacit admission of his guilt.

EMPEROR'S Ihsahn

"It's saying, 'Do this. You can do this too'. And we convert the souls of kids with our music."

"You're advising people to burn churches?"

"Yes. Of course. But I won't be jailed because they can't prove anything. My biggest problem is avoiding being put into a madhouse. There's a lot of shrinks trying to put me into a mental hospital. That's the real problem. Everything else is no big deal right now."

The police officer in charge of the inquiry into Vikernes' alleged activities, Chief Inspector Krodvelt, suggests that the investigation is bigger than Vikernes perhaps believes. But he also concedes that, even though Vikernes has appeared in Norwegian newspaper interviews admitting that he'd participated in church burnings, the police have still to produce real evidence in order to convict him.

Vikernes has a reason, a rationale, for his support of church burning. "We support Christianity because it oppresses people, and we burn churches to make it stronger. We can then eventually make war with it.

"Human beings are worthless and stupid," he scowls. "They're not supposed to think. They're supposed to follow a god or a leader.

"I support all dictatorships. Stalin, Hitler, Ceausescu... and I will become the dictator of Scandinavia myself. I'm a Viking, and we're supposed to fight. Make war, not love... right? A tiny bit of the Viking spirit lives on, and I'm a part of it. I hate peace and love. F**king stupid people walking around and loving each other. We're supposed to make war."

Grishnacht's apparent lack of morals is extraordinary. On the subject of murder, he comments: "The only negative thing about it is that when you kill someone, they can no longer suffer. We enjoy people suffering, so if we kill them, they won't suffer any more. But in general, it's very good and positive."

BARD FAUST of Emperor

VIKERNES' PARENTS are atheists, and Euronymous implies the same, without being specific. They both cite Venom and Bathory as early influences, and although they're aware that neither band were involved in Satanism in practice, they "choose to believe" otherwise.

Euronymous states that the Terrorists continue to "draw on the extreme hatred of the first three Venom albums. It gives us power.

"I don't know what went on in Venom's heads at the time," he continues, "but I do know of six people who have died as a more-or-less direct

KONTINUEZ OVER

FROM PREVIOUZ PAGE

result of Venom's existence. One was the mother of the guitar player in NME (a US band who released their 'Unholy Death' album in 1985). He stabbed his mother to death with scissors, because of Venom.

"I hope Venom know about this, and they think it's terrible. It is their legacy."

Ex-Venom frontman Cronos, denies these suggestions entirely.

"When you talk about Satanism relating to Venom, it's about worshipping yourself, giving yourself freedom of choice of love and hate, good and evil," says Cronos, now fronting his own band and working as a fitness instructor. "It's not about being beholden to a deity. It's about being the best you can be.

"All of this is very sad. Fighting and killing people is going back in time. Trying to impose your ideas by violence – that's what Hitler did to the Jews!

"They'll get no respect for their actions," he condemns. "They've stepped over the line."

"We support Christianity because it oppresses people, and we burn churches to make it stronger..." – VARG VIKERNES

EURONYMOUS IS the Godfather of the Norwegian Black Metal scene, playing guitar in Mayhem, and running a Black Metal record shop called Hell. He also controls the Deathlike Silence label, signing only bands "that represent total evil".

Euronymous formed Mayhem in 1984. After the release of their 'Pure F**king Armageddon' demo, they recorded the 'Deathcrush' album, which is due to be re-released through Plastic Head Distribution shortly.

The band's first album in six years, 'De Mysteriis Dom Sathanas' ('Lord Satan's Secret Rites') is also imminent. Singer Dead's apparent suicide in the Spring of 1991 contributed to the delay.

Euronymous relates the story coldly.

"Rumours say we killed him, took photographs of him, and used bits of his skull for necklaces," the 25-year-old admits. "But he really did kill himself. Dead was a very special person with an extreme personality; not even we knew him fully. He was always in the forest, and he just left a letter saying he belonged there. He believed that he was not of this world.

"He did a great promotion for Mayhem. When he killed himself, he became a great cult, a legend.

"I don't care if people die, even within my own circle. I have no feelings left. He was a great vocalist, but vocalists can always be replaced. What he did was the greatest sacrifice, and Mayhem only gained from it..."

While admitting his role as a Satanic Terrorist, he denies direct involvement.

"It would be very stupid if I did things myself – if I was caught, the whole organisation would collapse.

"I look after the economic side of things, and my record label provides the foundations. We have a group of militant people, taking care of things that need to be taken care of.

"Therion are a good example," he bristles. "They claim to be Death Metal, and I see that as a great scorn towards everything we stand for. They preach love and family life, and our religion says we have to destroy this.

"It will be easy to take bands like Therion first. We won't rest until they are either dead or have split up."

Of Deicide, Euronymous comments: "They are very commercial, and so will make people more interested in Black Metal," he reasons. "When their fans grow bored with them, and seek music with more quality, they will come to us.

"We will then drag them even further into damnation."

Black Metal fanzines like this pull impressionable fans into the Satanic Terrorists' web...

IT WAS rumoured that Vikernes had burned down the house of Therion vocalist Kristofer, but the reality is less dramatic.

Kristofer claims Vikernes' girlfriend, Suuvi Puurunen, merely pinned a Burzum album to the rear wall of his house with a knife, then set fire to a small portion of his back door. Kristofer was in Germany at the time.

"I'm not afraid," he sneers. "Count Grishnacht sent his girlfriend over to do his work for him! Who will he send next? His dog?"

British Doom Metal band Paradise Lost were also victims of Satanic Terrorist aggression. While on tour in Norway, the band's tour bus was set upon by Black Metal followers.

"They're f**king nuts!" exclaims Paradise Lost singer Nick Holmes, "but the attack on us was blown out of proportion a bit. The little disciples are all about 10 years old – f**kin' embryos!

"It is quite frightening," he considers. "It's a Manson-type cult thing. It's like the f**king Nazis in East Germany... the same kind of power game."

KONTINUEZ OVER

Black Metallers EMPEROR

"I do know of six people who have died as a more-or-less direct result of Venom's existence. I hope Venom know about this and think it's terrible. It's their legacy..." – EURONYMOUS

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

"THE COUNT will not go to jail," assures Euronymous. "They have no proof, and no witnesses, because no one dares to be a witness. If someone f**ks with one of our people, they will get the rest of us on their necks."

"There's no such thing as mindless violence," comments Vikernes. "Just to walk down the street and kick a boy is stimulating.

"Whenever I go out, I always have guns," he discloses. "Right now, I'm wearing chainmail, and have a big knife. People don't dare attack us, and if they do, they never survive. We are the Vikings, who kill for their own pleasure. We are not f**king humanitarian Red Cross idiots!"

Euronymous preaches an escalation in Satanic Terrorism. "We have done nothing yet."

He warns that bands touring Norway may be at serious risk in future.

"We are but slaves of The One With Horns. We are religious people, and total obedience is a fundamental concept for us. I'm a piece of dust in the whole cosmos compared to Him.

"What happens to us doesn't matter. If I had a great enough reason to kill, I'd gladly serve 20 years in jail.

"This is why our enemies should take us very seriously in the future. We have nothing to lose. I predict a new Dark Age..."

Additional research and interviews by Jon Hotten and Paul Elliott

THE BLACK METAL DIRECTORY

LEE BARRETT of Darkness fanzine leads a dark tour around the Blackest Metal...

TRUE BLACK METAL: Bands aligned with Norway's infamous Inner Circle.
MAYHEM – see main feature.
BURZUM – see main feature.
DARKTHRONE – The Anglo-Norwegian trio whose third album, 'Under A Funeral Moon', has just been released by Peaceville.
ROTTING CHRIST – A Greek quartet whose debut album is released shortly on French indie label Osmose. Rotting Christ have become something of a minor legend to Black Metal fans after countless EPs and appearances on compilation albums. The band believe themselves to be 'cursed human reptiles'.

ABRUPTUM – A Swedish band who claim to have recorded their debut album during bouts of self-torture!
MARDUK – Also based in Sweden and featuring former members of Abruptum. Currently recording their debut album for Osmose.
DISSECTION – Cult Swedish outfit who play heavy melodic Black Metal with evil intent.
VON – Now defunct US act who split after cutting one demo.

CHURCH OF SATAN: Bands inspired by the writings of Anton LaVey, author of 'The Satanic Bible' and leader of The Church Of Satan. LaVey's disciples celebrate hedonism and free will and are hated by the neo-Fascist Inner Circle.
ACHERON – A quartet based in Florida and featuring drummer Mike Browning formerly of Morbid Angel, Incubus and Nocturnus. Acheron control an official branch of Anton LaVey's Church Of Satan dubbed The Order Of The Evil Eye, which boasts 2,000 members and publishes a monthly newsletter plotting the destruction of the Christian faith. Acheron have a new mini-album, 'Hail Victory', released soon by Candlelight.
MASTER'S HAMMER – Czechoslovakian sextet fusing Thrash with classical themes. Their new album 'The Jilemnice Occultist' (Osmose) is an operetta in three acts featuring such extraordinary titles as 'That Magnificent Deer Has Sweated In The Bush' and 'I Don't Want, Sire, To Pierce Your Ears'.
IMPALED NAZARENE – Finnish 'Sado-Masochistic Black Metal' quartet much maligned by the Inner Circle. A single, 'Goat Perversion', was released in 1991 by Nosferatu Records, followed in November of 1992 by the first album for Osmose, 'Tol Cormpt Norz Norz Norz'.
BELIAL – Finnish band whose debut 'Wisdom Of Darkness' was recently released by Austrian label Lethal.

OTHER NOTABLE BLACK METAL BANDS
HAVOHEJ – The solo project of former Profanatica drummer Paul Ledney, who is vehemently hated within the Inner Circle. Based in Salem, New York, Ledney has been photographed in a graveyard, naked and drenched in cows' blood. Ledney even smeared a mixture of his own blood and semen over copies of the first Profanatica single, 'Weeping In Heaven'. The first Havohej album is released by Candlelight in the Summer.
BLASPHEMY – Canadian skinheads who tour the UK with Gorguts in April. New album, 'Gods Of War', due soon.
BEHERIT – Finnish cult act whose leader Holocausto is denounced by the Black Metal mafia as "false", a claim he denies. Beherit's debut 'The Oath Of Black Blood' sold thousands.
SHUB NIGGARATH – Mexican Death Metal band whose name translates as Black Goat Of A Thousand Young. Debut album due on the Drowned label shortly.
UNHOLY – Finnish quartet who burn bibles and Burzum and Mayhem albums onstage! Unholy recently released a new album on Lethal.
EMPEROR – Guitarist Samoth also plays in Burzum, although Emperor are not considered one of the True Black Metal bands. Dubbed "as mad as a goose on stilts", Samoth proclaims himself The Lord Of Silence and told Kerrang!: "Just write that I never smile or laugh." When pushed, The Lord Of Silence also commented: "Pure evil" and "We will rule the whole of Norway". Emperor have an eponymous album released in April via Candlelight.

PAUL LEDNEY of Havohej and Profanatica

STOP PRESS

POISON have confirmed that they *have* parted company with guitarist RICHIE KOTZEN. "I don't have anything to say about Richie – good, bad or indifferent," commented frontman BRET MICHAELS. "It just didn't work out." The band have just completed their 'Native Tongue' world tour in South America with BLUES SARACENO filling in, and are now set to start work on their next LP. Michaels has also landed his first acting role, in Aaron Spelling's update of '60s television series 'Burke's Law'. He plays a Rock star suspected of murdering his girlfriend. Expect news from Michaels soon, exclusively in the Big K!...

■ *VARG VIKERNES* – better known as *Count Grishnacht*, leader of Norwegian Black Metal band *Burzum* – has been charged with the murder of *Øystein Aarseth*, aka *Euronymous*.

Vikernes, who gloated over Aarseth's death in last week's *Kerrang!*, was arrested on August 20 in his hometown of Bergen. Charged with first-degree murder, he faces a jail sentence of 21 years.

An accomplice was also taken into police custody, on a charge of being an accessory to murder. The accomplice's identity has yet to be released by the police.

A third person has also been arrested in connection with the killing; a 20-year-old man – again unnamed – has been charged with submitting a false testimony to the police, having given Vikernes an alibi for the night of the murder.

Aarseth, leader of seminal Black Metal band *Mayhem*, was stabbed to death on the night of August 9 and 10. His body was found, clad only in underwear, on a staircase leading to his Oslo apartment, at 5.15am on August 10.

Vikernes claims he was in Bergen on the night of the murder, but Norwegian television and newspapers report that police have now systematically torn his alibi apart.

Apparently, there is no doubt that Vikernes was in Bergen at 7pm on August 9 and at 9.30 the following morning. However, Vikernes' accomplice has reportedly revealed that he and Vikernes travelled to Oslo in the latter's car during the intervening 14 hours.

When the pair reached Oslo and Aarseth's apartment building, Vikernes allegedly went up to the apartment alone. The accomplice claims that as he reached the entrance to the apartment, some time later, Aarseth staggered out, bleeding profusely. He was followed by a knife-wielding Vikernes, who proceeded to stab Aarseth repeatedly in the face and chest.

The coroner's report states that Aarseth was stabbed 25 times.

The accomplice is also reported to have claimed that he and Vikernes drove back to Bergen immediately after the killing, stopping only to dispose of the murder weapon – which has still to be recovered by police.

Upon their return to Bergen, the pair helped to consolidate their alibi by socialising.

The 20-year-old who supplied Vikernes with a false alibi was released by police after confessing his part in the crime.

Vikernes has yet to admit to any involvement in the murder, despite telling *Kerrang!* last week: "His (Aarseth's) death means nothing to me. I will dance and piss on his grave!"

It is also alleged that Vikernes had several motives for the killing.

Many believe that Vikernes coveted Aarseth's self-proclaimed position as 'Godfather' of Norway's controversial neo-Nazi Black Metal scene. It is also alleged that Aarseth, who ran the Deathlike Silence record label, owed Vikernes a sizeable sum of money – estimated at several thousand pounds.

And perhaps most significantly, Aarseth had begun a relationship with a former girlfriend of Vikernes – a Swede named *Ilsa*.

In addition to the murder of Aarseth, Vikernes is being questioned by police concerning a number of other crimes.

He has been formally charged both with the murder, and with two cases of arson and one attempted arson. The latter offences involve the burning of several churches in Southern Norway. The attempted arson was at a private residence in Sweden.

More ominously, Vikernes has also been questioned regarding the disappearance of a foreign student living in Bergen, as well as the murder of 34-year-old *Magne Andreassen*, who was stabbed to death in Lillehammer, Norway.

Vikernes told *Kerrang!* in an exclusive interview in March (shortly after being released on bail, pending an arson charge): "I won't be jailed, because they can't prove anything. My biggest problem is avoiding being put into a madhouse. There's a lot of shrinks trying to put me in a mental hospital."

On the subject of murder, Vikernes stated: "The only negative thing about it is that when you kill someone, they can no longer suffer.

"We enjoy people suffering, so if we kill them, they won't suffer any more. But in general, it's very good and positive."

Mere weeks before Aarseth's murder, Vikernes finished recording a new Burzum album, the band's fourth, which is scheduled for release via the Candlelight label in the UK later this month.

The album's ancient Nordic title, *'Hvis Lyset Tar Oss'*, translates as 'If The Light Take Us'.

The album features the following tracks:

'Det Som Engang Var' ('What Once Was'), *'Hvis Lyset Tar Oss'*, *'Innisløttet Fra Drømmen'* ('Into The Castle Of The Dream'), *'Tomhet'* ('Emptiness').

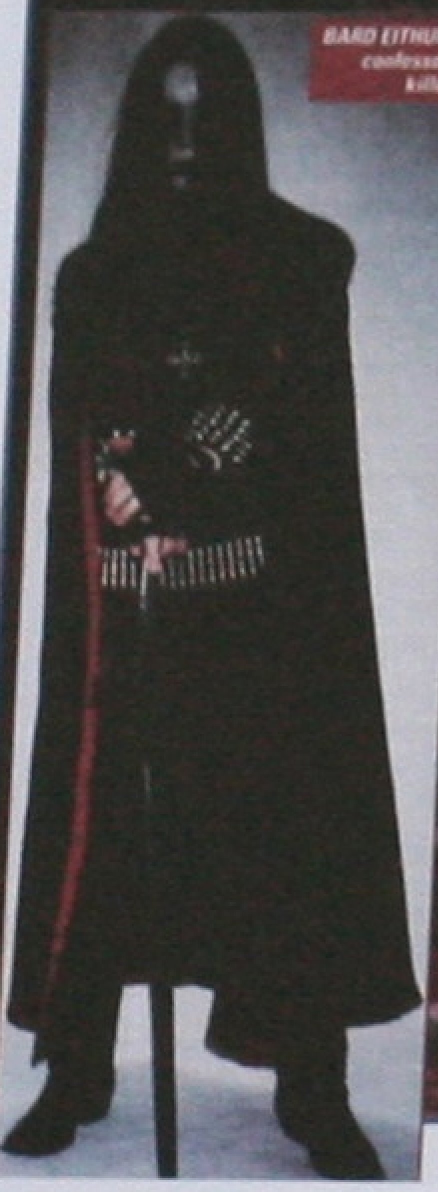
TORE BIEN/PAUL ELLIOTT

MAYHEM

TOUR DATES
RECORD RELEASES
METAL NEWS

SECOND BLACK METAL MURDER!

Emperor drummer killed homosexual and burned chapel!



BARD EITHUN: confessed killer

■ *BARD G. Eithun* – better known as *Faust*, drummer with Norwegian Black Metal band *Emperor* – has confessed to the murder of a homosexual just three weeks after fellow 'Satanic Terrorist' *Varg Vikernes* was charged with the murder of rival Heavy Metal musician, *Oystein Aarseth*.

19-year-old Eithun has admitted killing Magne Andreassen in the Norwegian town of Lillehammer – the murder is one of a series of crimes perpetrated by members of Norway's so-called Black Metal 'Inner Circle'.

Following Vikernes' arrest, police began a thorough investigation of the Inner Circle's activities and have since charged a number of its members and followers with crimes ranging from arson to rape.

Eithun was arrested at his parents' home and confessed to the murder on the advice of his defence attorney following intense police questioning.

The killing took place on August 24, 1992, when Eithun was 18. He says he was approached by Andreassen while sitting on a bench in Lillehammer's Olympic Park. Andreassen is said to have commented that Eithun was "good looking".

Eithun says he was disgusted by Andreassen's advances and left the scene. Andreassen then pursued Eithun and made a second approach, at which point Eithun attacked him in a fit of rage.

The victim was stabbed 30 times with a pen-knife. No single wound was fatal: Andreassen died from loss of blood.

The victim's body was discovered the following morning by three jogging schoolgirls.

Eithun has also confessed to an arson attack on a chapel in Holmenkollen, when he was allegedly joined by Vikernes and Aarseth.

Eithun worked in Aarseth's record store, *Helvete*, and published several Satanic journals under the name *Orctus Magasin*. One edition features illustrations of hangings, where victims are hung from a tree by their neck, hair and genitals. Eithun also published instructions on Satanic rituals.

Another member of Emperor, guitarist *Samoth* (real name unknown) was also recently taken into police custody on arson charges, but has since been released.

CRIME NETWORK

POLICE HAVE made more then a dozen arrests since they began investigations into the Norwegian Black Metal scene in March 1993.

Varg Vikernes was the first suspect arrested following arson attacks on seven churches in southern Norway. Vikernes was freed when police evidence proved inconclusive. Within six months he had been arrested again – this time as the prime suspect for the murder of rival, Oystein Aarseth, aka *Euronymous*.

Since Vikernes was charged with Aarseth's murder, hundreds of people have been interviewed by police and a sinister network of serious crime has emerged. Besides murder, these crimes include rape, assault with a deadly weapon and arson.

In the homes of Inner Circle figures, police have discovered hordes of weapons, Satanic paraphernalia and even jewellery made from human bones!

Police have also revealed that the Satanic Terrorists developed a hierarchy based on misdeeds. Witnesses told police that Satanists aspiring to the Inner Circle were assigned tasks and awarded points for their success. Each point gained increased the individual's stature within the Black Metal community.

It is believed that Vikernes and Aarseth controlled the Inner Circle before they became embroiled in a bitter rivalry which may have led to Aarseth's death.

MURDER, ARSON, RAPE

SINCE NORWEGIAN police began investigating the Black Metal Inner Circle, the following arrests have been made:

Oslo male, 19; charged with arson on Hauketo and Prinsdal churches. Subject denies charges as well as involvement in Satanism.

Moss male, 20; charged with attempted arson on Jeloya Adventistchurch. The accused claims to be a Satanist.

Lillehammer. *Bard G Eithun*, 19; charged with the murder of Magne Andreassen, 34. The accused confesses to the murder and to a second charge of arson on Holmenkollen chapel.

Lillehammer male, 20; charged with giving Varg Vikernes a false alibi on the night of Oystein Aarseth's murder. The accused confesses.

Notodden male, 19; charged with arson on Skjold church in Vindafjord. Denies charge. Subject is a known associate of Varg Vikernes.

Kristiansand male, 18; charged with assault on Christian evangelists. Subject confesses to the stabbing of a Christian youth. A second male, 22, is also charged with violence against Christian evangelists.

Stavanger male, 17; charged with ritual rape of a 16-year-old girl as well as arson on Revheim church. Second male, 18, also charged with rape and arson. Third male, 19, charged with arson on Revheim church.

Varg Vikernes, of Bergen, 20; charged with the murder of Oystein Aarseth, 24. Also charged with arson on Fantoft and Asane churches and Holmkollen chapel. Subject refuses to respond to charges.

Bergen male, 22; charged with arson on Asane church. The accused admits to being present at the scene of the crime, but denies involvement. Known associate of Vikernes.

Trondheim male, 21; charged with being an accessory to the murder of Oystein Aarseth. Admits to witnessing the murder. Known associate of Vikernes.

Bodo male, 14; apprehended for arson on Bodo church. Subject is below Norway's criminal age and is therefore immune to prosecution. Subject confesses crime and claims Vikernes is his hero. Second male, 16, charged with arson on Bodo church.

KONTINUEZ OVER

STOP PRESS

Pantera frontman *Phil Anselmo* has produced the new album by US noisemongers *Crowbar*. The eponymous album is out on October 12 through RCA. Anselmo has also hooked up with members of *Eyehategod*, *Stressball* and *Crowbar* on a new project entitled *Both Legs Broken*... *Ozzy Osbourne* is suing new US Rock journal *Music Confidential* for printing "an utterly false, misleading and defamatory" cover story headlined: 'The Stroke Madman Ozzy Osbourne Did Not Want You To Know About'. The story claimed that Ozzy had suffered a stroke and had been hospitalised in Los Angeles. The singer states: "I cannot allow this vicious attack on my credibility. This is now personal as it has affected myself and my family greatly." Ozzy is suing for a cool million dollars.

MAGNE-DRAPET

GLAPP UT AV POLITI-NETTET

Får ros

Siktede tilsto til forsvareren

BLOOD, FIRE, DEATH

Heavy Metal has seen nothing like it before. In Norway's infamous Black Metal scene, murder and arson are rife. Emperor drummer Bard Eithun is already in jail for murder. Now Burzum leader Varg Vikernes, aka Count Grishnackh, stands accused of killing Black Metal godfather Euronymous. TORE ØIEN reports.

NORWEGIAN BLACK Metal star Varg Vikernes goes on trial next week for the murder of rival musician Oystein Aarseth, aka Euronymous.

Aarseth was brutally stabbed to death on August 10, 1993, in Oslo. Vikernes, who leads Black Metal band Burzum under the alias Count Grishnackh, was charged with the murder 10 days later.

Vikernes is also charged with arson, following a series of fire attacks on churches. If convicted, he could face a prison sentence of 31 years.

Last month, Bard Eithun – aka Faust of Black Metal band Emperor – was jailed for 14 years for the murder of Magne Andreassen, a homosexual.

Vikernes' case goes to court next week amid a frenzy of domestic media coverage.

The trial was scheduled to begin on April 11 but was delayed by a row over a comment made by the presiding judge. Vikernes' defence lawyer, Tor Erling Staff, claimed that Judge Haug had prejudiced the case by attacking Vikernes in a press interview.

The judge countered: "I know my responsibilities. During the conversation with the reporter, I never mentioned anything about whether Vikernes was guilty or not. To do so is completely against everything I stand for personally and as a judge.

"How the reporter can have mistaken what I said in such a way is completely incomprehensible to me."

Judge Haug then said of Staff: "I react very strongly to the fact that these accusations are brought forward by a lawyer I have known for 50 years and dealt with in court for the last 15."

"I consider it blasphemous to build churches on (the ancient Norse god) Odin's soil. The ones building the churches are the criminals, not the ones who burn them..."
– VARG VIKERNES

After a whole day of deliberation, the court concluded that Haug was fit to judge the case against Vikernes. The trial was further delayed when Staff took sick leave. Staff is the most famous and controversial lawyer in Norway and even hosts a TV show.

Throughout the first day in court, Vikernes watched in silence. Due to the drama over Judge Haug, no charges have yet been brought forward, and Vikernes has not had to face any questioning.

Vikernes has so far refused to talk to police but has spoken to two psychologists appointed by the court. The psychologists have compiled a 50-page report for use in the trial; most of the questions relating to the accused's state of mental health will be answered by the psychologists.

However, Vikernes is expected to give a full testimony during the trial.

VARG VIKERNES recently gave an interview to Norwegian newspaper Dagbladet in which he claimed to have the backing of the infamous American racist organisation the Ku Klux Klan and the French-based Church Of Satan.

He also purported to be the son of Satan.

"The truth is obvious. Whether we like it or not, all Norwegians are sons of Satan by nature. I am not a Satanist who believes in a Devil figure, I am not into Devil worship.

"I am not a racist, because I do not hate other races. I love my own race and want to keep it as it is. Other races should stay where they come from and not mix cultures."

In addition to this weak philosophy, Vikernes also spoke of the work of the Satanic Terrorist Inner Circle, of which he and Aarseth were prominent figures. Various Inner Circle members have been tried for arson, rape and vandalism.

"Ordinary Satanists talk of the elite. Nazis speak of the elite race. We talk of the elite of the elite race. Therefore we can co-operate with both Satanists and Nazis.

"Modesty is a Christian virtue. We see honesty among ourselves as very important, but I can lie as much as I want to Christians to create chaos. We are now through with the stage of confusion."

Since he entered police custody in August 1993, Vikernes has been preparing a weighty philosophical manuscript entitled 'Vargsmal', and has been writing around seven letters per day.

He comments: "I think there are around 200 people in Norway subscribing to my views, but I have no idea how far they are willing to go in putting my ideology into practice. The police will never be able to split us. I live and breathe to control the propaganda outside the prison walls. I want to control and influence youth before they are brainwashed by others.

"The police will never split us. I live and breathe to control the propaganda outside the prison walls. I want to control and influence youth before they are brainwashed by others..."
– VARG VIKERNES

"What I say now has nothing to do with whether I am guilty or not, but I consider it blasphemous to build churches on (the ancient Norse god) Odin's soil. Norway is Odin's soil. The ones building the churches are the criminals, not the ones who burn them."

Vikernes ended the interview on a personal note. His tone was surprisingly upbeat.

"I am a happy and sociable guy. When the weather is nice, I sit in my cell absorbing the sun through the window. The people in prison are nice.

"I am not as obsessed by darkness as the press makes me appear. The reason I coloured my hair black was that people kept telling me I looked pale. I will never do this again. I am proud of my blond hair, blue eyes and white skin. And I intend to keep my long hair because Viking chiefs had long hair."

NEXT WEEK: ***The trial begins! Kerrang!'s exclusive court reports will reveal all about the trial of Varg Vikernes! In depth – and only in Kerrang!.***

THE KILLER CRACKS!

Norwegian Black Metal star Varg Vikernes – aka Count Grishnackh – is charged with the murder of rival musician and Satanist Oystein Aarseth. Kerrang!'s exclusive coverage of the trial begins this week as Vikernes enters the dock and sensationally confesses to the killing!

VARG VIKERNES, 21, is charged with the murder of Oystein Aarseth in Oslo on the night of August 10, 1993. Vikernes also stands accused of several other crimes, notably the burning of various Norwegian churches (damages total £5 million), the desecration of graves in Oslo and Bergen and the theft of dynamite from the Norwegian roadbuilding authorities.

Aarseth and Vikernes were bitter rivals within Norway's infamous Black Metal Inner Circle. Better known as Euronymous, Aarseth controlled a record label, Deathlike Silence, a record store called Helvete (Hell) and led the seminal Black Metal band Mayhem. He was also recognised as the godfather of the heavily Satanic Inner Circle.

As Count Grishnackh, Vikernes led his own Black Metal band, Burzum, whose new album is reviewed later in this issue. Vikernes openly resented Aarseth's status within the Inner Circle. When Aarseth was found dead, Vikernes gloated: "I piss on his grave."

On the opening day of the trial, Vikernes submitted this astonishing confession:

"I wished to go to Oslo to collect some records and deliver a contract to Aarseth. It was never my intention to kill him."

Asked if he was carrying a knife when he arrived at Aarseth's Oslo apartment, Vikernes admitted:

"Yes. I was wearing three. In addition, I had four knives, an axe, a bayonet and a baseball bat in the car. I always have a lot of weapons close to me, in the hope that something will happen. My friend, though, carried no weapon," he added in reference to an alleged accomplice – a 22-year-old male known only as Snorre.

Vikernes claims that Snorre travelled with him to Oslo to talk with Aarseth about joining Mayhem, but remained outside when Vikernes went up to the apartment.

"As far as I know," Vikernes continued, "he (Snorre) doesn't even own a knife. The Christian/Jewish moral is to live in peace. Our moral is to die in war."

After ringing the doorbell to Aarseth's flat, Vikernes recalls:

"Aarseth opened the door. He looked tired and wore just his underpants. I tried to give him the contract, and suddenly we were arguing. Among other things, he accused me of talking meaningless shit.

"He ran out in the hallway, with me close behind. I kept stabbing to make him shut up. I stabbed because I was angry at him for screaming instead of putting up a fight..."
– VARG VIKERNES

"He started threatening to beat me up. I told him only weak men threaten. Strong men take action. He then kicked me in the chest. I was dumbfounded, and pushed him over.

"As Aarseth stood up, he began to run toward the kitchen. I am sure he was going for a knife. I therefore drew one of mine. I stabbed him, thereby preventing him from reaching the kitchen.

"He then started running around the living room, screaming at the top of his voice. He kept screaming for help. Then I got really mad. He ran out in the hallway, with me close behind. I kept stabbing to make him shut up. I stabbed because I was angry at him for screaming for help instead of putting up a fight."

Aarseth suffered 23 stab wounds; two to the head, five to the neck and 16 to the back.

Vikernes said of the killing:

"It is regrettable because it has given me problems with the justice system. I don't care about him (Aarseth). He is dead and I am alive, and that is that. Aarseth and I were enemies and many people knew it."

The pair's first dispute was over the release of Burzum's 'Aske' mini-album via Aarseth's label.

Vikernes told the court: "When I gave my first major interview in January 1993, the purpose was to get publicity for the record Aarseth was to distribute for me. The result of the interview was that I was imprisoned, accused of several church fires. When I got out, Aarseth still hadn't managed to release my record. I felt that my publicity stunt was a total waste."

Bizarrely, Vikernes ended the first day in court philosophising.

"I am a nationalist, and carry weapons to defend myself and my country. My goal is a beautiful Norwegian kingdom. We have white skin, blond hair and blue eyes. Those that don't have no business here. We are half-gods."

Vikernes was then reminded by his lawyer that he was accused of a very serious crime.

Vikernes responded: "I say exactly what I feel. It is out of self-respect. My time in prison will be more difficult for me if I don't say what I stand for."

"Suddenly the door opened and Aarseth came screaming directly towards me. I saw blood in the living room and I saw Vikernes stabbing him..."
– murder witness SNORRE describes the scene

THE ALLEGED accomplice, Snorre, was questioned on the second day of the trial. Snorre's story completely contradicted that of Vikernes.

He said: "I found Aarseth's attitude towards Vikernes aggressive, critical and negative. When I told Vikernes about my conversation with Aarseth, he got mad and said, 'Aarseth must be gotten rid of. He stands in the way of my future earnings'.

"I understood that he wanted to do Aarseth in. He kept talking about killing him."

Vikernes and his alleged accomplice discussed with a third party various methods of killing Aarseth.

"One was to hit Aarseth in the head with an axe when he opened his door," Snorre revealed. "I said it would look stupid walking around in an area full of buildings with an axe. Another alternative was to make Aarseth demonstrate something on his PC in his apartment. Then he could be stabbed in the neck when he was sitting with his back turned towards us."

Snorre was then asked why he went to Oslo when he knew the purpose of the journey was to kill Aarseth.

He replied: "I was depressed, sick and more or less didn't care about anything. I don't think Aarseth deserved to die, but I don't know if I regret it."

Snorre then described the murder.

"Vikernes brought a contract with him so he had an excuse to get Aarseth to the door. I waited by the entrance while Vikernes went up to Aarseth, but after a few minutes I went up after him. When reaching the apartment I heard noises from inside.

"Suddenly the door opened and Aarseth came screaming directly towards me. I saw blood in the living room and I saw Vikernes stabbing him. Then they both disappeared down the stairs. After some seconds grasping the situation, I followed, passed them and ran into the street.

"After leaving Oslo we stopped at a lake in Oppland where Vikernes took a nude bath and sunk his bloody clothes wrapped around a rock. On the way back, Vikernes said he stabbed Aarseth in the head, neck and back, but had missed the main artery. Vikernes said it was disgraceful for a leader of the Black Metal community to have died in only his underpants."

NEXT WEEK: ***With this testimony, the second day of the trial ended. The drama continues next week – only in Kerrang!.***

GUILTY AS HELL!

The verdict is in – and Black Metal star Varg Vikernes, aka Count Grishnackh, has been found guilty of murdering rival Oystein Aarseth. The sentence is 21 years – the maximum penalty for any crime in Norway. Heavy Metal has seen nothing like it before. TORE OIEN reports...

VARG VIKERNES was sentenced this week to 21 years in prison for the murder of fellow Norwegian Black Metal musician Oystein Aarseth.

The sentence follows a two-week court hearing in which Vikernes openly confessed to the killing – and also revealed that he and other so-called 'Satanic Terrorists' planned to dynamite a church during a packed Sunday mass.

The trial has been the biggest story on Norway's national media for the past few weeks. One daily newspaper's headline screamed 'Count Dracula!' after a former girlfriend of Vikernes revealed that he once bit her neck and drank blood from the wound.

In addition to the murder, Vikernes was also found guilty on three charges of arson. Further charges of arson and desecration of graves were dropped due to lack of evidence.

> ***"Vikernes is polite, well-mannered and his intellect is well-developed. There are not grounds to conclude that he suffered from temporary insanity during the murder..." – FROM THE COURT PSYCHIATRIC REPORT***

21 years is the maximum sentence for any crime in Norway. Vikernes responded to the verdict with a defiant smile. Throughout the trial, he has shown no remorse.

Vikernes – aka Count Grishnackh – first came to international notoriety in March, 1993, when a number of Norwegian churches were burnt to the ground. A fireman died during one of the blazes.

Vikernes was arrested in connection with the arson but was later released. Aarseth – better known as Euronymous – was also among a large number of Black Metal musicians interrogated by police following the church fires, although no charges were brought to court.

Aarseth was widely recognised as the leader of the heavily Satanic Black Metal community. He led the seminal Black Metal band Mayhem and controlled the Deathlike Silence record label. Vikernes, who created his own one-man Black Metal band, Burzum, challenged Aarseth's leadership. Their contest led to bloodshed.

Aarseth died on the night of August 10, 1993. Vikernes and an accomplice, known only as Snorre, travelled to Aarseth's Oslo apartment, where the victim was brutally stabbed 25 times.

Vikernes was arrested for the murder just weeks later. In his defence, Vikernes told

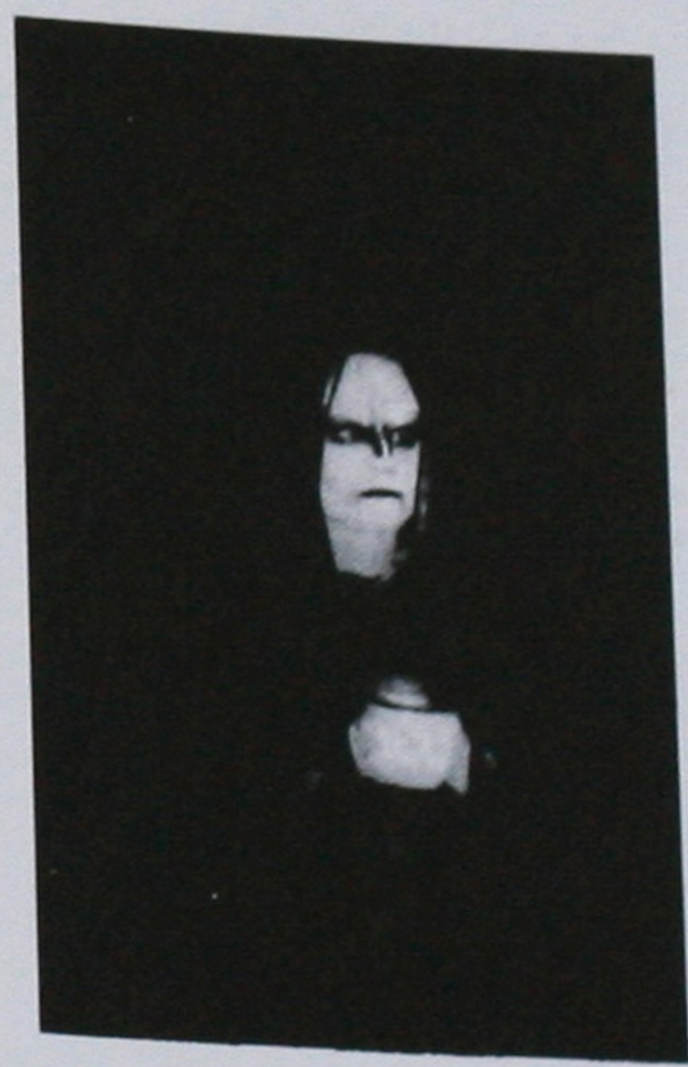
KONTINUEZ OVER

De Mysteriis Dom Euronymous

I'm still puzzled by the murder of Euronymous, there are so many things that make no sense to me.... Like, it was a know fact before the murder that Euronymous and Varg Vikernes were not exactly best friends, but still Euronymous opened the door in his underwear as Varg hit his doorbell..... To enter the complex where Euronymous lived you had to present yourself via a telecom-system. And after that you can enter if you are accepted. So Euronymous had to know that it was Varg coming, still he opened the door in his underwear..... well, the rest is history and has been well focused in the mainstream media. .... But it is stuff like that which puzzles me..... Anyway, I want to tell you another story... I want to go back in time to when I first met Euronymous & Co. I remember it well..... It was back in '85 and a dreadful hot summer day. MOTORHEAD was playing a gig in Oslo so I went there to check it out.... I also brought with me a bunch of copies of SLAYER 2 in order to sell them.... It was then I bumped into Euronymous and Necro Butcher, they bought the 'zine and they told me that they had a band called MAYHEM. I was bloody amazed to find out about such a band here in Norway. At that time there were no plans for a studio recording, but they promised to keep in touch. It took some time before I heard from them again, it was very early '85 and somehow Necro butcher had got hold of my phone number. I was invited to come and see them rehearse, that was an amazing experience. At that time they had no original tracks but they went through a bunch of cover songs of bands like VENOM, CELTIC FROST, SOD, SODOM etc. At that time MAYHEM was: Euronymous - Guitar, Necro Butcher - bass, Manheim - drums and Messiah on Vocals..... Messiah left shortly after but was brought in to do some session vocals on the "Deathcrush" mLP..... Anyway, it was a great experience to get to know MAYHEM as they were the first I got to know personally who were so dedicated to the Black/Death Metal style of life. So just sitting down , having a few beers and talking about SODOM was amazing. Anyway, I made an article about MAYHEM in SLAYER 3/4 and that was how they got connected to the underground. The cult of MAYHEM started to grow then and there. Also, we managed to get in touch with other people across Norway who shared our views..... In spring/summer 1986 MAYHEM made their first demo as a trio (Manheim, Necro butcher & Euronymous). This was of course the utter amazing "Pure Fuckin' Armageddon".... Never before had people heard insanity like this from the Northern shores. On this demo Necro Butcher and Euronymous shared the vocals. The original demo was made in 100 numbered copies and they went fast! However it was re-released in the summer of '91 and tons more copies where sold. After a while Maniac became the singer of MAYHEM, he was doing a 'zine called DAMAGE INC. which was released in 2 editions.... Anyway, Maniac sung on "Deathcrush" which was recorded spring '87... As earlier stated Messiah also appeared on this. As time went by Maniac also left MAYHEM, and even if the band was going through hard times there was always the spirit to go on..... Eventually also Manheim left the band and MAYHEM was without a rehersalplace.... Euronymous was totally dedicated to the underground so he was always busy promoting MAYHEM in the most warped places on this planet. Also in the summer of '87 something else of great importance happened. We got in touch with the band MORBID in which Dead was singing. Dead was to become the singer of MAYHEM but not until 6-7 months later. After some discussions with Euronymous on the phone, he decided to move here and also with Hellhammer on drums we were now facing the strongest version of MAYHEM ever.... The sad thing is that Dead only sang on 2 studio tracks with MAYHEM ("Freezing Moon" and "Carnage") which originally appeared on the comp. "Projections Of A Stained Mind". However, those tracks are also on the "Live in Leipzig" LP so I prefer to listen to them there..... There are also bootlegs with MAYHEM where you can experience the true horror of Dead. You will find out that Dead was the ultimate singer..... Even if MAYHEM were followed by bad luck they managed to play some gigs abroad.... Like in old East Germany Turkey etc..... Anyway, plans were soon made early for their next LP, and at a very early stage they decided to call it "De Mysteriis Dom Sathanas" .... It is kinda wicked that this album wasn't released until the spring of '94, after two of the members departed from the mortals..... Dead killed himself under tragic circumstances in '91 and in the summer of '93 Euronymous was stabbed to death by Varg Chickennes.... Anyway, I will not bore you with further lessons in the eternally cursed MAYHEM saga, but I would like to state that Euronymous was raising the Level of Death Metal and he has been a great inspiration for many of the bands from Norway. MAYHEM with Dead was the real incarnation of evil on earth, it was there it all started. Anyway, although Dead was no more, the MAYHEM LP was not canceled and after testing a few vocals it was decided that Attilla from Hungary's TORMENTOR should sing on the LP....Well, the man has a very special, almost operatic way of singing.... It takes some time to get used to but it is great!!! Mind you it is no where close to Dead and I think it is a bit sad to hear "Freezing Moon without Dead, that's the only thing..... Therefor, "De Mysteriis Dom Sathanas" is not the ultimate LP, it could have been if Dead sung on it.....

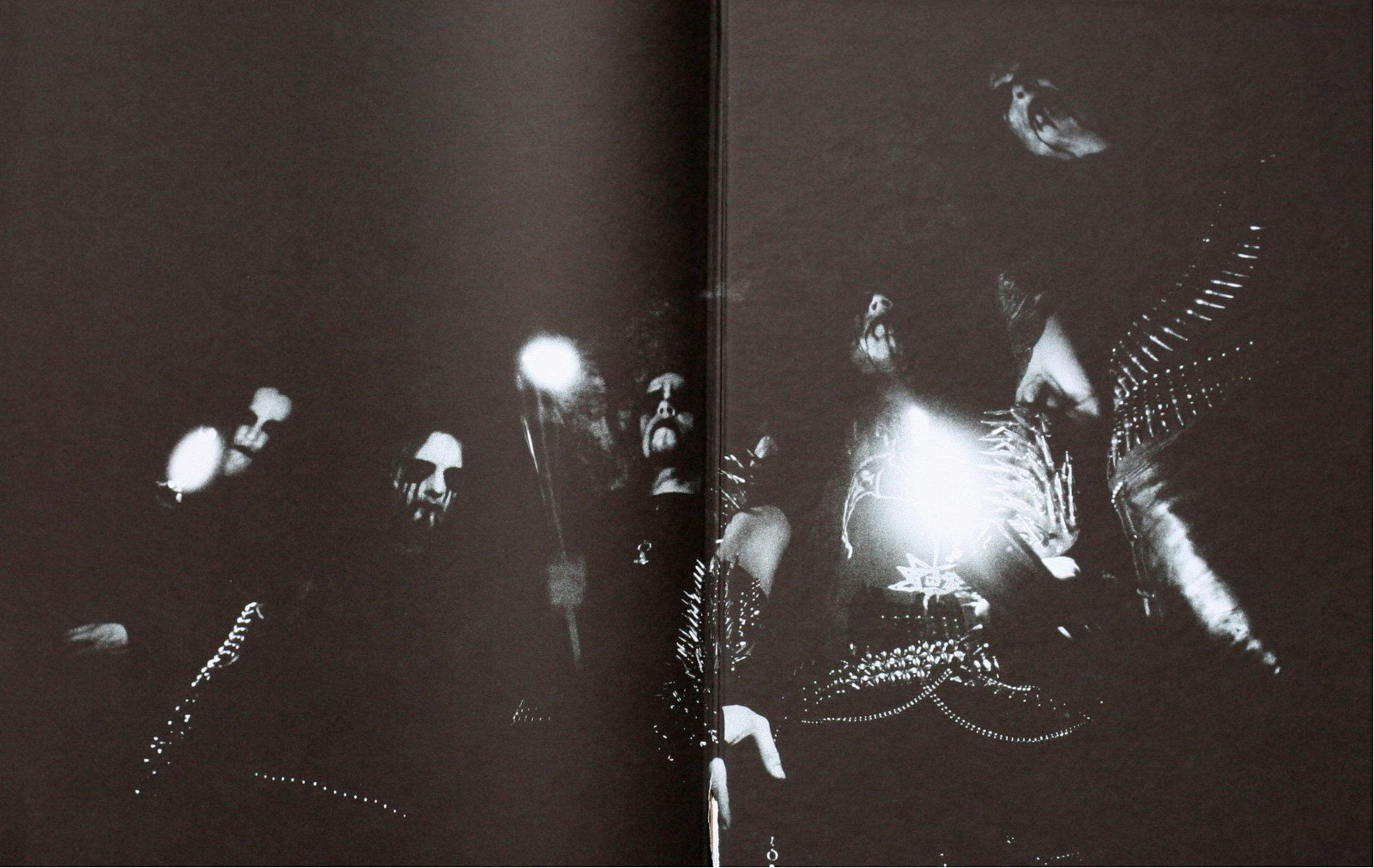
Anyway, the first real chapter of Northern Black Metal is over and let's hope there will be no reforming of MAYHEM, that would <u>not</u> be right.....

MAYHEM - The originators of Northern Darkness



"There is no sun without shadow, and it is essential to know the night."

Albert Camus



True Norwegian Black Metal

In the last two decades, a bizarre and violent musical subculture called Black Metal has emerged in Norway. Its roots stem from a heady blend of horror movies, heavy metal music, Satanism, Paganism, and adolescent angst. In the early-mid 1990's, members of this extremist underground committed murder, burned down medieval wooden churches, and desecrated graveyards. What started as juvenile frenzy came to symbolize the start of a war against Christianity, a return to the worship of the ancient Norse gods, and the complete rejection of mainstream society.

American documentary photographer Peter Beste has spent the last eight years working in this insulated and secretive community. Beste's access and insight has been absolutely without precedent, resulting in an amazing photographic journey.

Photography by Peter Beste
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